

# AMATEUR RADIO

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1951

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## EDITORIAL



## Are We Satisfied With What We Have?

"Success in life consists of getting what you want and being satisfied with it!"—Sir Wm. Osler.

Can we assume today that we have what we want from our hobby and are satisfied with it? Can any one of us say we have achieved the ultimate in equipment; achieved the transmitter we always wanted; the layout of our station as we always wanted it; the receiver, the aerial system, the hundred and one little "gadgets" and simple pieces of equipment which together makes the pursuit of our hobby so pleasant? It is considered that few of us have reached the stage of being satisfied with what we have, but—and it is a big "but"—we are always doing something about it from the technical aspect.

On the other hand, what of the Institute that has, for twenty-five years, fought our battles so that we could conduct our hobby under the conditions we do today? Are we satisfied that we have taken advantage of everything the Institute can give us? And if we are satisfied, are there not a lot of things we could do ourselves to assist others to reach the same stage of satisfaction?

It is considered there are! It is considered that with a hobby like ours, we could all help each other a lot more than we do. It is considered

that this Institute can give us a lot more than we have permitted it to give us.

Why don't we let it give us more? Why don't we help it to give us more? Why don't we take more interest in its activities—its meetings, its conventions, its technical facilities, its organised contests, its admin-

istration?

Why is it that a few will always do our work for us and we will stand by and let them? Why? Why? Why? There are a thousand "why's" we could ask. But could we stop asking this question? Could we, instead, say we are doing this—we are doing that—we are doing something to assist the administration of the Institute? Could we, in the future, look back and say we did our "little bit" to assist our Institute, thereby helping others to reach the same stage of satisfaction we have ourselves apparently reached?

Can we say NOW that we are going to get together and support the Institute that has afforded our hobby so much? Can we take stock of ourselves and say we could set aside a little time to help our Institute, and in so doing, help ourselves and our fellow Amateur? Or . . .

Are we satisfied with what we have?

—FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

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# MOBILE MODULATOR

In July, 1950, issue of "Amateur Radio," the cathode follower system of driving zero bias 6N7s in Class B was described. The main advantage was the saving in current consumed in the driver, and the use of an ordinary Class A transformer.

Here is the circuit of a Mobile Modulator from "Ham News," July-Aug., 1950, using this principle, which is capable of giving nearly 10 watts of audio, and using the cathode follower driver, but without the driver transformer.

This modulator was designed to modulate a final running at 300 volts and 60 Ma., with both modulator and r.f. section fed from a 300 volt 100 Ma. vibrator supply, operating from a 6 volt car battery.

This unit should prove ideal for that Emergency Rig as it is possible to build it in a 4" x 5" x 6" cabinet.

As can be seen above, the average plate current available for the modulator is 40 Ma., if the complete Emergency Rig is to operate from a 100 Ma. vibrator supply and the r.f. stage consumes 60 Ma. of that total.

In typical Amateur practice, where push-pull Class AB 6V6 tubes are used as modulators, this figure of 40 Ma. would barely provide static current for one of the modulator tubes. Also, considering normal output transformer efficiencies, this 6V6 type of set-up would be hard pressed to provide 10 watts of audio output.

Other experimenters, striving for a low-drain modulator design, have gone to Class B modulators, realising that this type of operation gives the lowest static current possible. (For a given peak audio power output the peak d.c. plate current to the modulator stage is relatively fixed, regardless of the type of operation. However, when considering speech waveforms, this peak value of plate current is of secondary importance; the average value of d.c. plate current is relatively low compared to the peak value.)

For example, the 6N7 in Class B service is rated at about ten watts output, and the average plate current required is in the order of 35 to 40 Ma. The driver required for this 6N7 would usually consume another 10 or 15 Ma. This arrangement is a considerable improvement over the Class AB 6V6 approach, but falls seriously short of our 40 Ma. average current objective.

The problem was, therefore, to achieve further economy in both the modulator stage and the driver. The ideal Class B tube for this service was found where it was least likely to be suspected—in the miniature tube line.

Strange as it seems, the 12AU7 will give a peak speech output of well over ten watts and, stranger still, at a distortion level well under that accom-

plished by a Class B operated 6N7, despite the fact that the 6N7 was originally designed for zero bias Class B operation.

The static (resting) current of the 12AU7 in Class B with 300 volts on the plate is approximately 15 Ma.

Further economies in both current and weight can be realised in the driver stage by employing a device already well known to readers of "A.R." By using a cathode coupled driver operated Class B no driver transformer is required and the driver itself adds only another 5 Ma. drain to the power supply.

The net effect of this design is a high-quality modulator (including a voltage amplifier stage drawing less than a Ma.) that has a static drain of approximately 20 Ma.

## ELECTRICAL DETAILS

With reference to the circuit diagram, Fig. 1, it will be noted that the entire modulator is push-pull throughout. Inasmuch as the Class B stage and driver must be push-pull, it was deemed desirable to carry this through to the input circuit in the same fashion, to avoid a phase inverter and to simplify construction. Note that only three condensers and eight resistors are used in the entire unit.

A bias battery is specified in order to provide the proper grid bias voltage for the 12AU7 modulator and the 12AT7 driver. Under zero-signal conditions, the bias voltage from either pin 2 or 7 of the 12AU7 to ground will be 15 volts, and the voltage measured across either R7 or R8 (the bias for the 12AT7 driver) will be 7 to 8 volts, when a 22.5 volt bias battery is used.

Note that the cathode current for the 12AT7 driver flows through the bias battery, and therefore this battery ac-

tually supplies a current in the order of a few milliamperes. In other words, the current does not tend to charge the battery, as in the usual bias case, but instead, tends to discharge it. However, this current is so slight that normal shelf life may be expected from the battery. This battery has no drain on it during stand-by or complete off periods, as current is drawn from it only when high voltage is applied to the modulator.

The first 12AT7 tube acts as a push-pull voltage amplifier. Because carbon microphones have a wide variation in output voltage, this first stage was added so that adequate gain would be available regardless of the microphone used.

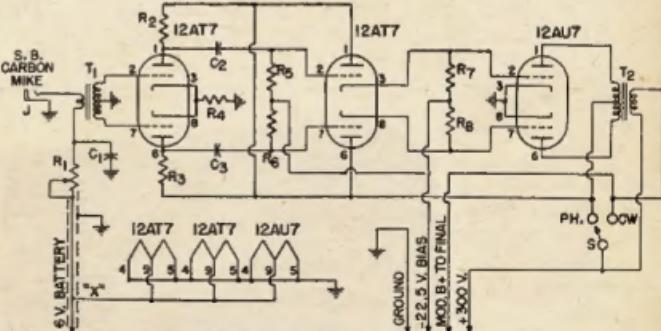
Voltage for the microphone is obtained from the car battery, and a single shielded lead is used to provide filament voltage and microphone voltage. This lead should be made of heavy wire to avoid ohmic loss due to the filament current, and it should be shielded to prevent undue noise pick-up.

Potentiometer R1 (actually connected as a rheostat) serves as a gain control. Because it can only change the microphone current a small amount, it does not have a wide range of control, but it is useful for adjusting the level when different people use the microphone.

If the microphone has too much gain, it will be necessary to increase the value of R1, or add a fixed resistance in series.

A phone-c.w. switch is provided which removes all high voltage from the modulator and shorts the secondary of the output transformer when the switch is in the c.w. position.

An external switch must be provided to turn the filament circuit on and off. With the circuit shown this switch will also shut off the mike current. Some microphones incorporate switch contacts which may be used to control a relay for power switching. There are many possible control schemes and the refinements of the control system are left to the individual.



### CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS

The general nature of the mechanical work is shown in Fig. 2. All of the parts, with the exception of the switch, are mounted on a piece of flat metal measuring 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". The spacers which support this piece are 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

Fig. 2 indicates how the parts are mounted on the flat chassis.

The shaft on resistor R1 is left long enough so that it projects through the front panel. The input jack is mounted on the chassis and a large hole cut in the front panel so that a mike plug can pass through. The switch is mounted on the front panel and the leads going to it are left a little long, so that the chassis can be removed easily from the front panel.

The front panel is one of the removable 5" x 6" sides of a standard 4" x 5" x 6" cabinet.

### COMPONENTS PARTS

There are no critical components used in the Mobile Modulator and all parts may be plus or minus 20%, as indicated under circuit constants.

One part is worth discussing in more detail, however, and that is the output (modulation) transformer. Fundamentally, all that is required is a transformer with a primary plate to plate impedance of approximately 12,000 ohms and a secondary impedance of approximately 6,000 ohms. This latter figure assumes that the modulator will be used with an rf. final where the plate voltage on the final is 300 volts and the final plate current is about 50 mA.

The prime consideration in choosing an output transformer for the Mobile

Modulator are size, weight, efficiency and cost. A designer's concern over size, weight and cost is obvious, although concern over efficiency might not be.

If a transformer has a loss of 3 dB. (and this is not unusual) then one-half of the audio power is lost in the transformer. In other words, if 12 watts could be obtained out of the tubes in a modulator stage, then only six watts

of distortion to the output signal. While the efficiency depends upon the primary to secondary coupling, the distortion is controlled largely by the tightness of the coupling between the two halves of the primary winding.

Obviously, any transformer of the proper impedance and power rating will serve, within the limitations mentioned, as T2.

### TESTING

There is very little that need be done when the unit is finished. As mentioned previously, it would be wise to check the bias values, and a meter reading of the resting current would also be advisable.

Do not attempt to test the modulator with signal input unless it is connected to the final, or unless a dummy load is used. A 5000 ohm, 10 watt resistor across the secondary of the output transformer will serve as a dummy load.

### OTHER USES

Even though the Mobile Modulator has been designed for mobile service primarily, it will make an ideal modulator for emergency work. The power drain is small and the unit is compact and reliable.

This modulator may also be used in the home station if a change is made. Wire "X" should be disconnected from the hot lead so that the filaments may be energised by a 6.3 volt transformer. The hot lead can then go to a small 4.5 or 6 volt battery which will supply plate current.

Regardless of the use for which it is built, this high-quality little modulator should find many uses around the shack.

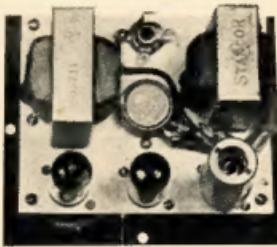


Fig. 2.—Rear view of the uncased Mobile Modulator.

would be available out of the transformer. This means you have only a six, not a twelve watt modulator.

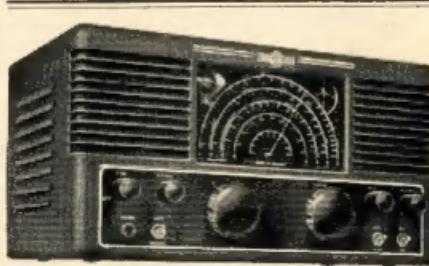
In Class B systems another important but frequently overlooked consideration is that of the design of the transformer itself. An improperly designed transformer can contribute a large amount

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# Mobile and Emergency Antenna

The antenna system about to be described is, in theory, not new, but in the application end it seems to be all but unknown to the average Amateur. It is somewhat akin to the paper clip idea, being so simple yet so effective.

Antennas for low frequency mobile or emergency work normally fall in the category of pieces of wire less than a quarter-wave long. The big problem has been, and will be, how to make this short piece of wire look like a longer piece of wire.

This problem exists because normally it is easier to get efficient power transfer from final to antenna when the antenna length is an appreciable portion of a quarter-wavelength.

However, a point that most Amateurs do not fully appreciate is that, disregarding ohmic loss and directivity effects, one length of wire is as good as any other length of wire in radiating a given amount of power.

ducive to efficient radiation. But, here is an idea. Why bother trying to do a fancy matching job of getting voltage from the final tank into a network which then has to have another voltage which will produce our antenna current? Why not make the tank coil shape such that it will radiate?

This is exactly what has been done to make the antenna about to be described. In effect, a few turns of the final tank coil have been unrolled and straightened out to make a single large turn, or loop of wire. By getting this section of wire out of the tank coil, even though it is still part of the tank coil, we have caused it to become a relatively effective radiator.

## THE LOOP

The best shape for this radiating piece of wire is a circular single-turn loop. Of course, this sort of antenna on, let us say the eighty metre band, is not as efficient as a properly matched half-

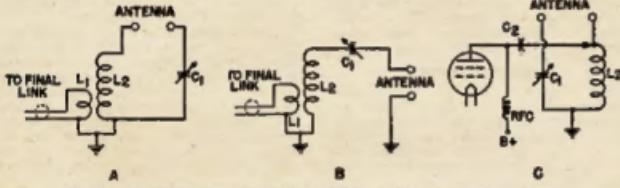


Fig. 3.—Circuit diagrams of the Mobile and Emergency Antenna.

C1—335 pF.  
C2—0.005uF. blocking condenser.  
L1—two turns number 12 wire.

In other words, a one foot piece of wire would be just as effective on eighty metres as a one-hundred foot piece of wire if means were available to efficiently match its impedance.

No matter how you look at it, however, the piece of wire you are using for an antenna is the wire that serves as your radiator, so the problem becomes one of getting the most current into that piece of wire, because, other factors being equal, the more current in a radiator, the better the signal radiated.

This question of getting the most current into the wire is one involving impedance matching, and it has been discussed by practically every author of an article on mobile transmitters. Suffice it to say that the shorter the piece of wire (for a given frequency) the harder it is to get that antenna current to flow.

## THE TANK COIL

At this point some of you are thinking that if this current is so important, why doesn't the final tank coil radiate, because it has just about as much current as any piece of wire in the rig? Quite true, it does radiate as some of you with t.v.'s may painfully recall.

It radiates, but not too efficiently, because the shape of the coil is not con-

The antenna network is wired as shown in Fig. 3A. In this case a coaxial line is run from the transmitter to the matching network. No tricky matching stunts are involved. The short piece of wire fastens to the two feed-through insulators, C1 is tuned to resonance, and you are on the air. This arrangement is ideal for emergency work where no permanent installation is desired.

The schematic in Fig. 3B is especially for use with mobile rigs. It is identical electrically to that of Fig. 3A, but the parts have been re-arranged. The practical way to use the circuit of Fig. 3B is to mount a ten or twelve foot whip antenna on the rear bumper and connect the upper antenna lead to the base of the whip.

The top end of the whip then connects to ground. This may be accomplished by bending the whip until the tip of it reaches the rain gutter or some other portion of the car body. As before, matching is no problem. Merely tune C1 to resonance.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.L.A. members are requested to promptly notify any change of address to their Divisional Secretary, not direct to "Amateur Radio."

While all of these circuits will resonate any length of wire from twelve feet on up, it is obvious that L2 has losses which should be kept to a minimum. Therefore, L2 should be made as low inductance as possible consistent with the length of antenna used and coupling necessary. In addition, large conductors and well-made connections will really pay off.

For radiators in the order of twelve feet long, use the constants specified, remembering that the smaller the wire used to wind L2, the less effective the antenna system will be. For appreciably longer radiators, reduce the inductance of L2 to as low a value as practical. If possible, wind L2 with copper tubing.

## EFFECTIVENESS

It is difficult to state just how well an antenna works without taking a tremendous number of measurements. This has not been done, although a fair amount of experimental work has been completed.

For example, using a loop with twelve feet of wire, and the emergency rig on 80 metre c.w., W2FZB has been able to work stations in a radius of a couple of hundred miles quite satisfactorily.

One precaution is in order. There is a null perpendicular to the plane of the loop. That is, the loop radiates the least energy in the direction that you would see if you looked through the loop. This null is extremely sharp, and should not cause much trouble, since the rest of the pattern is quite broad.



condenser was mounted directly above on top of the chassis.

Coils for the final amplifier tank were wound on six-pin  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter formers to the sizes specified. The socket for these coils was mounted off the chassis by means of a pair of small stand-off insulators.

It is important that the two resistors,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$ , be attached as close as possible to the 807.

#### TUNING UP

One of the attractive things about this transmitter is the ease with which it can be tuned up. A milliammeter should be plugged into the keying jack,  $J_1$ , and with the transmitter turned on, the oscillator condenser is turned until the plate current dips. This is the point of oscillation. If it has been necessary to use a different gauge of wire in winding the oscillator coil, or a different size shield can, then it may be necessary to alter the number of turns slightly on the oscillator coil to make the stage oscillate. If possible, use a crystal which will multiply into the centre of the 20 metre band.

With oscillation obtained, the tank condenser for the final amplifier should be rotated to obtain a dip on the final plate meter. Make certain that the switch is in the 80 metre position and that an 80 metre coil is in the socket. With 350 volts on the plate and no load on the final, this stage will dip to about 15 Ma, with the screen resistor specified. Next break the h.t. and insert the 40 metre coil. With h.t. re-applied, it will be found that on again rotating the final tank condenser another plate cur-

rent dip will take place. This will be about 20 Ma. The oscillator condenser should not have to be touched. It may happen that two dips will occur, one near full capacity and the other near minimum capacity. The latter should be checked with a wavemeter as it will probably be either the third or fourth harmonic of the oscillator frequency. Neither of these are required.

Next the 20 metre coil is put into place, again taking care to turn off the h.t. Apart from the danger of getting a shock, the practice of changing coils with the h.t. left on may damage the 807 for the screen is still connected to the h.t. supply.

The frequency selector switch is then turned to the 20 metre position and the final tank condenser rotated for the plate current dip. At this stage a wavemeter should be used to determine if the final amplifier is on 20 metres. If so the quadrupler tank condenser should now be adjusted, a milliammeter having been inserted in jack  $J_2$ . Alternatively, the correct position can be found for the quadrupler tank condenser by turning it only and watching the final plate current meter for signs of a better dip. It is necessary in this stage to make certain that it is acting as a quadrupler, not a tripler. A wavemeter coupled loosely to  $L_2$  will soon determine this. If the stage is acting as a quadrupler, but will not tune properly it may be necessary to alter the tank coil slightly until the tank does tune. The values shown have proved successful in three transmitters, but stray capacities may alter things a little.

If the quadrupler is switched out of circuit by turning the switch to 80 metres it should be possible to obtain the 807 plate current dip on the fourth harmonic at the same position on the dial as 20 metre output is obtained when the quadrupler is switched in. In other words, the final amplifier tuning should be the same on 20 metres when the quadrupler is switched in and out. However, the amount of the final amplifier plate current dip will be greater when the quadrupler is in circuit, indicating greater efficiency in the 807. The dip should be about the same as was obtained when the transmitter was on 80 metres.

The next step is to replace the 20 metre coil with the one for 10 metres and with the quadrupler in circuit locate the 10 metre dip on the final plate current meter.

When all this has been done, it will be found that with the one crystal four bands can be covered with approximately the same output on each band.

No data has been given for the output link or coupling methods since this will depend to a great degree on the aerial system used and the antenna coupler employed if one is used. (A link coupled antenna tuner is very necessary when this rig is used on 40 metres, and is advisable for that matter on all bands to prevent radiation of harmonics and sub-harmonics. Sub-harmonics are very prevalent when the final is used as a doubler, so play safe and link couple to an antenna tuner.—Tech. Ed.)

(Continued on Page 15)



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# VK-ZL DX Contest Results, 1950

## VK RESULTS

### C.W. Section

Call	80	40	20	10	Total
VK2DG	493	2710	—	69	3272
VK2AHA	815	2402	80	149	2946
VK2ZC	370	1792	42	69	2273
VK2GW	178	1549	15	90	1832
VK2WD	—	804	—	—	804
VK2RA	456	—	—	—	456
VK2PV*	—	—	—	—	—
VK3DQ	309	1056	—	—	1365
VK3XK	172	671	42	885	—
VK3PG	114	718	42	874	—
VK3FL	—	698	—	—	698
VK3RJ	—	466	15	481	—
VK3YF	—	340	—	—	340
VK3XB	—	180	30	210	—
VK3TX	—	186	—	—	186
VK3KS	—	134	—	—	134
VK3ET*	—	—	—	—	—
VK4 NL	—	—	—	—	—
VK5FH	—	370	1835	42	2247
VK5BO	—	1076	—	—	1076
VK5RX	—	688	—	—	688
VK5JE	—	—	—	—	—
VK5KO	30	196	—	—	226
VK5LJ	—	87	541	—	628
VK3XK/7	—	95	156	—	251
BERS195	—	677	2053	39	2759

\* Denotes Check Log.

Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorer in each district as well as to the highest scorer on each band as follows:-

80 metres	VK5KO	30 points
40	VK2DG	493
20	VK2AHA	2710
10	VK2AHA	149

### Phone Section

Call	80	40	20	Total
VK2DG	1355	218	—	1553
VK2AKV	520	—	—	520
VK3HW	—	1995	135	2130
VK3LN	—	1868	—	1868
VK4KS	—	1751	—	1751
VK5LC	—	221	221	—
VK6RU	—	1251	912	2163
VK6KW	—	1063	828	1921

Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorer in each district as well as to the highest scorer on each band-

20 metres	VK3HW	1995 points
10	VK6RU	912

## ZL RESULTS

### C.W. Section

Call	80	40	20	10	Total
ZL1MB	—	384	1590	75	2049
ZL1BY	83	447	1391	92	2013
ZL1AU	—	301	1172	29	1502
ZL1MQ	—	230	838	84	952
ZL1DV	—	—	750	—	750
ZL1QW	—	—	556	—	556
ZL1HD*	—	—	—	—	—
ZL1HY*	—	—	—	—	—
ZL2MM	—	690	—	—	499
ZL5OA	—	346	1656	—	2002
ZL3JA	—	224	774	15	1013
ZL5LL	—	627	—	—	627
ZL5CP	—	—	526	—	526
ZL5JA	—	—	1072	39	1101
ZL4KE*	—	—	—	—	—

\* Denotes Check Log.

Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorer in each district as well as to the highest scorer on each band-

80 metres—ZL1BY 83 points.

40 " ZL3LL 627 "

20 " ZL1MB 1590 "

10 " ZL1BY 92 "

### Phone Section

Call	80	40	Total
ZL1MQ	—	—	—
ZL1HY*	—	—	—
ZL2GX	—	—	120
ZL3NQ	—	—	29
ZL4JA	—	—	457

\* Denotes Check Log.

Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorer in each district as well as to the highest scorer on each band-

20 metres—ZL1MQ 533 points

10 " ZL1MQ 185 "

## OVERSEAS RESULTS

### C.W. Section

Call	Score	Call	Score
CE3AG	622	OA4J	492
CN8EG	123	OE1CD	677
CT3AA	30	OH8HNZ	395
CT1AL	44	OH8NU	139
DL1FF	1666	OK1VW	889
DL1KB	1115	OK1HI	770
DL1QT	901	PA0ZL	195
DL6BU	330	PY4IE	357
DL1EB	186	SM5PV	426
DL1FG	186	SM7QY	408
DL1YA/P	59	SM5CO	403
EA4CR	245	SM7TMS	114
EA3CK	60	SM5LL	75
FF0R	327	SM5WL	59
FT8TM	187	SM6AQR	28
FS3CT	130	SP1JF	388
FB9ND	74	VS6BW	117
F3TZ	59	VU2BK	533
G2AJ	1219	W2WZ	1012
GBXN	835	W2EWZ	297
GC3OJ	755	W3HPK	821
GBDA	196	W3UJV	116
GC6AH	105	W3BIP	60
GSGPC	84	W3DLI	59
GM3EST	15	W4LZF	774
GW3ZV	944	W4POF	337
GW3FSP	520	W4QKZ	82
GW8BW	318	W5AWT	86
HA4SA	199	W6MVQ	2250
HB9BN	329	W6UZX	2062
I1BCB	250	W6AM	855
I1KN	445	W7BTH	183
I1ER	44	W8ZBC	102
J2AFM	722	W9AEH	1264
KH6DQ	1251	W9YDP	15
KL7SE	45	YU1CBC	278
KP4CC	617	ZS5LL	598
KZ5CW	98	4X4CR	112
LA4K	45	9S4AX	100

### Phone Section

Call	Score	Call	Score
CN8EG	74	PK1WW	249
DL1FF	73	PK4OO	213
EA4CK	170	PK4ZZ	73
EA2CK	57	SM5WL	29
F9RM	102	SM5APA	29
G6XN	451	VS1DZ	1041
GW3FSP	140	W6UZX	806
JA5RC	64	W6AM	15
KH6ADY	45	X22SY	786
OK1HI	164	YN4CB	192
OK1VW	111	ZS6JS	501
OK2SO	98	4X4CR	44
PA0BRG	15		

## LISTENERS' SECTION

New Zealand—J. B. Holder, 848 points.

Australia—E. W. Trebilcot, BERS195, 2759 points.

Switzerland—R. Dumas, HB9RSE, 422 points.

Yugoslavia—Djuro Borasic, 128 points.

Germany—E. Kintuher, DEM1977, 189 points.

England—R. W. Thomas, BRS15822, 1138 points.

Finland—Pentti Sare, 337 points.

Czechoslovakia—Joseph Foldyna, OK2-6024, 388 points.

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# FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

## 144 Mc. CROSSES THE TASMAN

During a 7 Mc. contact on 21/1/51 between VK3HM and ZL1AOX, made a transceiver transmission of 144 Mc., which was copied by ZL1AOX. Unfortunately, due to the 56 Mc band fading contact between the two stations was lost before ZL1AOX could make a 144 Mc transmission.

Further contacts between VK3HM and ZL1AOX were made a few days later, and the daily contacts over a period of two weeks on this band between VK3XSA and VK1KHE at 0755 hours. Signals have varied between strengths 4 and 2 plus. During the same period contacts have also been made in the evenings with 7 Mc. transmission.

On 15th February at 7:29 a.m. 144 Mc signals were first heard in Ballarat by Ron Wilkinson who used a stacked 4 over 4 beam, they were 4 plus fading. VK1KHE's signal was an interesting at 4/53 heard VK1KHE's signal coming in at QSL plus calling CQ. Contact was made and signals remained the same until 8 a.m. when the power was cut off due to rationing. Ron then called VK3XSA who fitted his portable rig up at VK3XSA and the signals made again at 8:15 until 8:30, signals again at 8:45 and 8:50 when they faded out.

On the evening of the same day VK1KHE's signals were heard by VK3XSA at 9:30 p.m. and contact again made; signals were 4 over 4 as before but subject to fading. After a short time the power was raised in and made contact with VK1KHE just before the signals faded out at 9:30 p.m. Conditions on Melbourne stations were about average, but no special conditions seemed to exist on 56 Mc. and 144 Mc. contacts after 8 a.m. in the morning and overcast and dull in the evening. Much of the credit for the above contact is due to Ron Wilkinson of Ballarat, who has been listening every morning for signals on 144 Mc. and has kindly advised VK3XSA on the morning they broke through. A careful watch had been kept previously but no trace of any signals heard.

## 56 Mc. ACTIVITY NEW SOUTH WALES

On Sunday 21/1/51 there was an excellent opening of the band to ZL1, ZL3 and ZL4 and another on 20/1/51 but on the whole the DX was not too good. The reason already there is talk of 575 Mc. activity. ZARG has had 144 Mc portable gear which 2WH used whilst on holidays in Sydney. Hugo and ZAMV also operated from Bathurst during the National Field Day making Sydney contacts from the top of Mt. Panorama.

During an opening to VK5 on 20/1/51, VIF 4th harmonic beating with 2QZ's signal was heard at Berry by SMA. One gets used to this noise/signal report in Sydney but it's a bit thick in VK5. ZK5 may be making a trek to Sydney in March and hopes to call on some of the v.h.f. gang.

The Blue Mountains stations put solid signals into Sydney. ZFI having receiver trouble, is receiving 144 Mc. and not putting the dog for a walk. I have heard VIF 4th harmonic ZAMV came onto the band with a pair of 50's in the final and was working ZLs a couple of days later. Another 144 Mc. identity, ZABZ, has been attracted to the band, possibly by the DX. 2PU has been working 144 Mc. with solid modulation and making a good job of it. The weather has allowed him to increase power somewhat. ZABC is off on a car trip to VK3 hoping to visit some of the VKs en route.

ZAMV in VL will call CQ as soon as he's using 60W, to an 80W and is operating "portable" ZAJR on 32 Mc. finds it somewhat lousy up there, but the rig and RX have plug-in coils for 40, 20, 10 and 6. so we doesn't rely on the v.h.f. gear for contacts.

At the "Jamboree" meeting of the v.h.f. section, b.c. from v.h.f. transmission was discussed and various experiences were related. The section has offered to give help in this matter if requested and ZQZ was sold the job of co-ordinating. Consideration in a block of city flats had led to this difficulty in addition to ignition noise, lack of antenna space, receiving machines and the like.

ZWV scored the first Sydney-Lismore contact and when he worked ZC, ZKO is reported to be coming up on the band so the year promises some interesting country contacts.

## VICTORIA

The month of January held up fairly consistently for DX openings, especially for early in the month when the band had been relatively easy to work with. If anything, the real DX—300 miles and up—was there in a greater number of openings than in previous years but the signal strengths were not up to previous years'

peaks but in the main the contacts were usually R5 so that's what counts in a contact. The last contact with the VKs was on the 16th January, but ZLs were worked up till the 24th.

Opening to VK3 and VK4 came nearly every day with quite good openings to VK3 on the 1st, 2d, 5d, 7th, 12th and again on the 22nd.

The daytime regulars missed a good VK7 opening one dinner time but it was unfortunate that they and Dick could not operate that day. It was one of those days when the juice was cut off in certain suburbs. VKHK recently went off a tower and his builders and engineers have to fit his 50 Mc. aerials up to sky-wards and we can all look for Keith's good sign upon repair of same. The v.h.f. boys around Shepparton are very active; we are pleased to see VK3XSA and VK3CR and we also mention that ZL2 is also back on the band again. Together with ZUL at Tatura they have a good group of active v.h.f. boys. We also welcome the return of 3CI from VK3 Land (SSB) and we all hope that it will not be long before Sid is stamping out signs from Mertlett at his new QTH.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The v.h.f. contest concluded with some extra good openings and the ZLs were in during the mornings and in the evenings, although hard to contact at night. On preliminary scores, the ZLs had 144 Mc. and 32 Mc. and ZL1 had 575 Mc. just before the signals faded out at 9:30 p.m. Conditions on Melbourne stations were about average, but no special conditions seemed to exist on 56 Mc. and 144 Mc. contacts after 8 a.m. in the morning and overcast and dull in the evening. Much of the credit for the above contact is due to Ron Wilkinson of Ballarat, who has been listening every morning for signals on 144 Mc. and has kindly advised VK3XSA on the morning they broke through. A careful watch had been kept previously but no trace of any signals heard.

Stations heard in VK5 on 36 Mc are: ZMD on 51 B Mc., SAX, SMA, SPC, SRO, SGB, SJD, SGR, SGL heard almost nightly on 30 and 34 Mc. and VK5 was heard also (either on 288 Mc. using a pair of 718s in transverter).

## WALES AND IRELAND

It would appear that once again Th January has written the finale to 50 Mc. DX for the metropolitan area. At 0900 that day, the band was quiet to VK3 and VK4, but VK5 was heard on c.w. and answered by both stations several times without any QSO resulting. Since then there has been no breakthrough from Perth. GBC worked down at Bunbury and continued the gear work during January and told since the first opening back in December, has had some 50 QSOs from home and portable locations. Rollo also provided some good contacts for Perth stations during his sojourn in the south.

Both GDW and SWG from the country certainly had a grand time during the last two and a half months. Half way through January they were both up around the 180 QSO mark with GDW having the edge. GDW had a very good opening to ZL, working several stations with signals around the 80 mark. SHM in Kalgoorlie is apparently active again. Was heard being called by a VK3 one day, but the details are sketchy. Charlie Likens had no news from SHM in March. G2BZ had a 144 Mc. on a semi-final using a pair of 575s designed for super modulation. As far as Perth is concerned the band seems to have lapsed into a semi-come with the same half dozen regulars using four perfect megacycles of the radio spectrum. How about it chaps? This band should be populated.

ZBO, who is now back in Perth, wishes to thank all those eastern States stations who took time off during the v.h.f. contest to work him. He had a 144 Mc. on a semi-final and a 575 full well they could not score from the QSOs with him. That is typical of the friendly operating technique on site.

## 144 Mc. DOINGS OF THE MONTH

### NEW SOUTH WALES

On 21/1/51 at about 3000 hours 2AH was working ZL1ADX on 50 Mc. and gave him a call on 144 Mc. phone. ZL1ADX came right back on a 50 Mc. with RE and was heard in Sydney. Unfortunately a two way contact could not be made on 144 Mc. Strangely enough, ZL1ADX's 144 Mc beam was not directed towards Sydney when he heard 2AH and the signals were not heard back over with the beam tuned up. Nice work, Alan.

During an opening of the 50 Mc band to VK3 on 21/1/51, ZED set to and called SGR on m.c.w. stations later.

Signals were heard but were not positively identified.

We hear that ZARF went marine portable on the National Field Day picnic. ZATL and ZACO are new stations on the band, but the 90 odd stations that were on the contest were depleted. It is hoped that news of the DX contacts will stimulate more interest. There was a very poor response to the request for logs for the contest. It was hoped to abstract the logs of the great DX stations of VK3 144 Mc. Mc. Rax, Rax, anemone, etc. You can't hope to make progress if you don't know what the other chaps are doing.

## VICTORIAN V.H.F. GROUP NOTES AND 144 Mc. MEGACYCLES

The group meeting night is the third Wednesday of every month when all interested in v.h.f. bands, 50 Mc and above, are invited to attend. Sixteen members attended the January meeting and a cordial welcome was extended to a visitor, Chas. Robinson, ex-VK7TEK, now VK3CR. A general discussion on the group's activities on 144 January, election of a committee to check field day logs, special v.h.f. c.c. certificates, and probable locations of stations for the February and March field days occupied the meeting.

Reports on the January field day from ZABA (Mt. Macedon), ZFO (Yarrambat), and ZJO (Mt. Martha) all showed that there was much activity on 144 and 50 Mc., but apparently none on 288 and 375 Mc. It was pleasing to note that stations were spreading out the whole band and not all clustered at the low frequency end.

Three non-transmitting members, Messrs. Len Jackson, Jim Gibbons, and Ted Howell, were appointed to the committee for checking field day logs. Frank Pritchard, a member of ZAJD, donated by ZAJD, a 100W and an 80L, donors of which prefer to remain anonymous.

Please note the correction to the Rules as published in "A.E." last month. Rule 4-2(d) states "144 Mc. and 50 Mc. and 288 Mc. and 375 Mc. and 1215 Mc. and 414 Mc." The main score for each band is multiplied by the multiplier for that particular band and the resultant scores are then added to give the total score. Thus, if a station worked on 50 and 144 Mc. the total score will be the same as if the total in the final score will be the same as that obtained from the mileage/scale rule. If he worked on 144, 288, 375 and 10,000 Mc., his total multiplier is one score on the 50 Mc. by his score on his 144 Mc. and 288 Mc. and 375 Mc. and 10,000 Mc. The multiplier is the same as that obtained by the multiplication of the multipliers. DO NOT add multipliers in the manner indicated last month.

The suggestion that a v.h.f. century club certificate be given to members who work and operate QSLs to stations that have worked at least 100 stations on frequencies above 150 Mc was very well received and the idea adopted as it was felt that activity on those bands would be thereby increased.

The next field day will be held on Sunday, 18th March. On the day the following stations have agreed that they will be active: ZFO (Mt. Macedon), DUNA (Bunyip), ZAJE/YS (Mt. Macedon), ZAJE/VF (Barbaram), ZLZ/OM (Mt. Bunyip), ZJO ("Arthur"), ZLZ/OM (Tatura home location), ZLZ/OM and ZAJE (Tatura home location). 50 Mc. hopefully Country stations may be able to help themselves to more contacts on field days by working out a system of beam directions and times of calling and notifying us in time to include them in these rules. The 8th of the month preceding the proposed activity is the deadline. Listen to ZFI broadcasts for further particulars of field day activities. Conditions on 144 Mc. were extremely good on the evenings of 25th and 26th January. Signals from VK5 were heard in Sydney and were about as normal. It would be interesting to know just what temperature and humidity inversions obtained on those evenings.

In view of the big possibilities of Interstate contacts on 144 Mc. it would be good to know the QSOs in each State. Hook-ups on the 7 Mc. band once a week to chew the fat! What about getting together on approx 1100 Mc. at say 0000 hours each Sunday from March 47 if anyone is able to suggest a better time or day. It would be interesting to see what has happened on two metres and adjacent bands recently, anything likely to happen.

## 575 Mc. BAND—NEW SOUTH WALES

At the VK1 Convention, a 575 Mc. hook-up in the city was demonstrated and the signals were 50 at both ends, despite several layers of ferro-concrete buildings between stations. ZAFN operated one station and about a hundred other stations participated in this for the first time at Federation House. ZAFN's station controlled on 575 Mc. was of great interest. An 8 Mc. crystal, two 6J6s and a 935 final-lighting a tetrode with the output. Though not strictly January news, there is to be a field day on 575 Mc. on about 18th April with 50 Mc. and 144 Mc. stations also active—more details later.

# N.S.W. Division Jubilee Year Annual Dinner, Hamfest and Field Day

BY BILL MOORE, VK2HZ, AND DAVE EVANS, VK2AYE

The Annual Dinner, Hamfest and Field Day, which marked the celebration of the Jubilee Year and the fortieth anniversary of the Wireless Institute of Australia, New South Wales Division, will be long remembered as the most outstanding function of the Division for many years. Preparation of details was undertaken by the Council, ably assisted by a group of Past-Presidents who willingly submitted to co-option on the Committee, and in short order a programme was formulated and duties and details worked out and allocated.

## TELEVISION DEMONSTRATION

The first item on the programme was timed for 8 p.m. on Friday, 26th January, with a television demonstration and lecture at the A.W.A. Works, Ashfield. Over 250 members and friends attended and many received an excellent first viewing of this new branch of radio science. The meeting was opened by Mr. Parkinson, A.W.A. Works Manager, who expressed his pleasure at having the members of the Institute as the guests of the Company and then turned over the conduct of the meeting to President Jim Corbin, 2YC. Jim proceeded to welcome members' guests and outlined some points of our history. Our photogenic President had the doubtful pleasure of addressing a very sparse audience for the majority of the guests were observing the proceedings in the television receivers which lined one side of the large cafeteria and which provided excellent definition and was ably supported by a first-class audio transmission. On the termination of his remarks, Jim turned the microphone over to Mr. Fleming, A.W.A. Staff Welfare Officer, who introduced our lecturer, Mr. W. Honner, of A.W.A. Research Laboratories.

Mr. Honner spoke at length on the general principles of television and was able to strike a style of delivery which made his address as interesting to our non-technical guests as it was to members. Of particular interest was the recounting of his experiences in television transmissions in various countries abroad; England, France and U.S.A. all came under discussion and a brief description of the types of programmes transmitted in each country gave members an opportunity to appreciate the fact why the 625 line was being adopted here. Television, Mr. Honner pointed out, would never completely succeed in displacing conventional radio in the affections of the people; it was a totally different type of entertainment and, due to the extremely high cost of programme production, it would never occupy lengthy transmission periods. Another difficulty was the fact that a television programme had to be rehearsed for six weeks before presentation, further, actors had to be word perfect as no script could be used and, once a programme was produced, it was the final show and no recording could be made for future use. Obviously, therefore, television called for a set of exacting standards from both actors and personnel and it

would be a long time before the OM's dinner and the housework suffered through the addiction of the XYLs to the magic screen. The latter point was dealt with by Mr. Honner in humorous vein and indicated that the future may see a brood of television widowers replacing the many radio widows.

At the conclusion of Mr. Honner's lecture a demonstration of the various lenses was made, showing the systems used for "close-ups." Guests were invited to walk before the television camera and to observe themselves in a screen which had been placed adjacent to the stage. Practically all present availed themselves of the invitation—with not a few shocks. President Jim Corbin then proposed a vote of thanks to the A.W.A., coupling with it the names of Messrs. Horner (Asst. Gen. Manager), Parkinson, Honner and Fleming and the cafeteria staff who had sacrificed part of their holiday period to enable the Company to entertain us. The vote of thanks was ably seconded by 2RA and was carried by acclamation.

Guests were then invited to partake of an excellent buffet supper, the standard of which was fully in keeping with that of the entertainment and to which all did justice. The meeting concluded at 10.45 p.m.

The thanks of the Division are due to A.W.A. for their whole-hearted co-operation in providing a diversion of such outstanding quality, and, in particular, desires to thank those ladies and gentlemen who curtailed their holidays so that the Company could conduct the function.

## GEAR ON VIEW

The second feature of the Hamfest was a gathering of the clan at Federation House at 2 p.m. on Saturday at which over eighty members attended for a demonstration of gear and a general "rag-chew." The meeting was opened by the President and, as the first item on the programme, 2IQ set himself up as a "sitting shot" for unorthodox questions regarding any angle of Amateur practise. Angus took all the honours as nobody succeeded in upsetting his equilibrium. He was followed by Cec Cronin who gave a remarkable demonstration on 578 Mc. and the rig, operated by 2RQ, maintained contact with 2KF who was moving around the city in a car, and with 2ANF who operated in a building in the city. The 578 Mc. gear, transmitter and receiver, was housed in the base of an ordinary telephone and will indicate the facility and ingenuity of Cec when confronted with problems of design and construction.

2ADT then demonstrated a turret switched receiver and gave lengthy descriptions to all interested. The receiver embraced all the most desirable attributes of communication receivers and was a remarkable piece of home-built equipment. Switching is accomplished from 144 Mc. through to 3.5 Mc. and the construction must have provided Jack with some solid headaches. [Methinks this Rx would be the makings of an excellent article for "A.R."—Ed.]

ZARH was next on the rostrum when

he displayed and described a Grid Dip Oscillator and Antenna Scope. Ray's ability to hold the interest is well known and his remarks were well received. Final item was the serving of afternoon tea by members of the Divisional Council and their Tea Director, Joyce Jira, 2AMJ. This tea, being arranged by males, showed their lack of training since we had no teaspoons or tea towels, however, four spoons came to light from some angle and eventually all hands were sweetened up. Members then adjourned for a break before the start of the Annual Dinner.

## ANNUAL DINNER

Members congregated in the Sky Ballroom of Federation House from 7 p.m. for sherry and savouries and a get-together while the President and members of Council welcomed our official guests who included:—

Hon. T. L. Anthony, Postmaster General.

Mr. J. J. Malone, Chairman, Overseas Telecommunication Commission (Australia).

Professor Bailey, Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Sydney.

Mr. J. Armstrong, Superintendent (Wireless) P.M.G., N.S.W.

Mr. T. Court, President, Institute of Radio Engineers.

Dr. F. Adcock, Inventor of the Adcock Direction-Finding Systems.

At 8 p.m. 150 members and guests took their seats for dinner. First toast of the evening was "The King" and was proposed by the President, Jim Corbin. The toast of "The Wireless Institute of Australia" was proposed by Mr. J. J. Malone, for many years Chief Radio Inspector and possessing a full and complete knowledge of Amateur Radio. Mr. Malone prefaced his speech by congratulating the Institute on its fortieth anniversary and reminding members that it was a matter for pride that they belonged to the oldest radio organisation in the world. He dealt with the pioneering of short waves by Amateurs in the early days of the science, the national value of the Radio Amateur to the Armed Forces in time of war, their support of the R.A.A.F. Wireless Reserve and their unstinted services to the community during any emergency. Mr. Malone concluded his speech with some humorous references to his dealings with Amateur Radio; one worth recounting was anent the XYL who wrote to him asking that the OM's license be revoked because he was neglecting his home obligations.

Jim Corbin, President, replied to Mr. Malone and said that Amateurs were still pioneering new bands and that the old enthusiasm was still prevalent. Already the Tasman had been bridged on 144 Mc. and Amateurs were constantly endeavouring to reach out further. He reiterated the constant desire of the Radio Amateur to contribute to the well-being of the community and mentioned that it was during the first forty-eight hours of any emergency that the assistance of the Amateur was most

necessary. In conclusion, Jim assured Mr. Malone that when a national call was made, the Radio Amateur would not be found wanting.

The toast of the "Postmaster General's Department" was only rendered by 2JU, Divisional Councillor and Federal Councillor for this Division, who referred to the honour conferred on the Division by the presence of the Hon. T. L. Anthony, Postmaster General, at our Annual Dinner and ventured the hope that, now he had met us, he would be with us again in the future. John mentioned the cordial relations which had at all times been characteristic in the dealings of the Department with the Institute and recorded the appreciation of the Institute for the able and sympathetic attitude of officers of the Department when confronted with problems affecting the welfare of Amateur Radio.

In reply, the Hon. T. L. Anthony disconcerted members by stating that he was no stranger to radio. He was an operator in the 1914-18 war and mentioned events which transpired when on field operations in the desert with camel transportation. Claiming to know little of current practise, Mr. Anthony had little trouble in gaining the sympathy of the old-timers when he described the vicissitudes of tuning the old rotary spark gaps and the vicious "bites" they were liable to hand out. He referred to the pleasure he experienced that evening in making a personal contact with Radio Amateurs and remarked that he was pleased to see quite a large number of "mature" Amateurs in the gathering. He appealed to all members of the Institute to encourage young men to join our ranks and to adopt radio and television as a career as well as a technical hobby. Television had many applications in the defence field and it was the desire of the authorities that Australia should not be wanting in techniques in this new field of activity. At all times his Department would stand by with assistance and guidance and the Institute could rest assured of sympathetic consideration of any matter submitted.

Mr. Anthony conveyed the thanks of the Government and the Department to the Institute and its members for their outstandingly unselfish work during the Kempsey floods and other emergency operations.

As a diversion between speeches, members were entertained by Will Andrade, the well-known magician, and his equally well-known (though in other channels) assistant, 2OF. Jack submitted willingly to all illusions including that of losing his right hand, but was somewhat upset when, in the course of a trick wherein a paper cover was placed around his tie, the magician lost some of his instructions regarding the operation of the trick and, instead of cutting through the paper, leaving the tie intact, he scissored his way through the tie and left Jack only sufficient "tail" to make up a neat little bow-tie. Understood that Jack is now considering a "Budgie" hair-cut to go with the new bow-tie.

The function concluded shortly after 10 p.m. when a general "ear-bash" automatically came into operation. It was generally agreed that the dinner was a huge success and it would appear that a larger venue may be required next year.

#### FIELD DAY

The final effort, winding up the Hamfest, was the Field Day at Lane Cove National Park where about one hundred members and their families attended for an alfresco picnic outing while 2WI went "portable" in the National Field Day Contest. It was the intention of Council that the usual Sunday morning broadcast be made from the park, but technical faults developed in the rig and were not ironed out until 11.30 a.m. so the idea was discarded. In the Field Day operation 2WI succeeded in working all States and New Zealand. Quite a number of the gang arrived at the picnic ground with transmitters and, after getting the hang of things, left for pastures new where they had a reasonable chance of operating without interference from adjacent stations. Judg-

ing from the number of stations operating portable, it would seem that the National Field Day is regaining its popularity in this State and it is hoped that next year will see a still greater list of entries.

As a social gathering the Field Day was a success and rumour has it that our worthy President is already planning for a bigger and better show next year—with sports for the ladies and children. Towards sunset parties drifted away and when the writer left, the sole survivor was 2XU who was only then packing up his transmitter.

The Council desires to place on record its appreciation of the efforts of all members who co-operated so completely by their attendance at all functions and assured the success of the Hamfest.

## The First Shipment is Here for Immediate Delivery!

### Eddystone "740" Communication Receiver

- Operates from 110 and 220/250 volts, 40/60 cycles AC mains with provision for 6v. external vibrator power supply for mobile/portable use.
- Range—205 metres to 30.6 Mc. in four bands. The first three ranges are directly calibrated in frequency and the fourth in wavelength, to an accuracy better than 0.5%. Range 4 includes the International Distress Frequency.
- Receiver—an eight valve superheterodyne with 450 Kc. permeability tuned I.F. channel:—

V1—EAF42—RF Amplifier.  
V2—ECH42—Frequency Changer.  
V3—EAF42—IF Amplifier and AGC.  
V4—EAF42—AF Amplifier and Detector.  
V5—EL42—Output.  
V6—EAF42—Beat Frequency Oscillator.  
V7—EB41—Noise Limiter and "S" Meter Limiter.  
V8—EZ40—Full Wave Rectifier.  
(All Valves have B8A Bases.)

- Input Impedance—400 ohms.
- Output Impedance—2.5 ohms.
- Provision for External "S" Meter.
- Sensitivity—Better than 10 microvolts for a 15 db signal-to-noise ratio.
- Selectivity—30 db down 10 Kc. off resonance.
- Image Ratio—Better than 15 db at 30 Mc. and correspondingly higher at lower frequencies.

Price (Less Speaker) £73/15/-

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# FEDERAL, QSL, and



# DIVISIONAL NOTES

Federal President: W. R. GRONOW (VK3WG); Federal Secretary: G. M. HULL (VK3ZS); Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

President: J. Corbin, VK3YC.  
Secretary: Bert H. Duff (VK2EO), Box 1734  
G.P.O., Sydney.

Meeting Night: Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor: A. C. Pearce, VK3AJA, 1011 Leichhardt Rd., Leichhardt, N.S.W.

Zone Correspondents: North Coast and Tablelands: J. M. Rebilach, VK3XJO, Raleigh; Newcastle: F. Whyte, VK3AJA, Vale St., Birmingham Gardens, Newcastle; Cessnock & Lakes: H. H. Hargreaves, VK3XW, Cessnock Ave., Cessnock, Western: W. H. Sillit, VK2WHD, Cumbewarra, Forbes, South Coast and Southern: R. H. Rayner, VK3SD, 49 Pettit St., Yass; Western Suburbs: A. Pearce, VK3AJA, 1011 Leichhardt Rd., Leichhardt; Eastern Suburbs: D. B. Knock, VK2XNO, 43 Yanco Ave., Waverley, North Sydney: L. D. Cuffe, VK3AM 718 Military Rd., Mosman; S. G. George: J. A. Ackerman, VK3AJK, 32 Park Rd., Carlton; South Eastern: V. H. Wilson, VK3AWN, Cr. Wilson St. and Marine Pde., Maroubra.

## VICTORIA

President: G. S. C. Semmens, VK3GS.

Secretary: C. Dyer (VK3WDY), 19 Collington Ave., Brighton (X.A. 6236).

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. S. May, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melbourne.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Royal Australian Technical College.

Zone Correspondents: Western: C. C. Waring, VK3JW, 12 Skene St., St. Kilda; South Western: K. O'Rourke, VK3AJK, Killawarra, Westmers; North Eastern: T. K. Tennant, 15 Harold St., St. Kilda; Far North: G. C. G. Smith, VK3KZ, 151 Elm Ave., Mildura; Eastern: H. O. Kell, VK3AHK, Timbarra; North Western: C. Case, VK3ACE, Cummington Ave., Birchip.

## FEDERAL

### 21st ANNUAL FEDERAL CONVENTION

As members are no doubt aware, the 21st Annual Federal Convention is held this month in the Melbourne Divisional Hall, 1 Queen Street, Melbourne, and with a fairly large and comprehensive agenda to contend with, it is hoped that the discussions and determinations arising from the Convention will demonstrate that our Convention is the "Institute" to gain more pleasure from his hobby.

Your delegate will come to the Convention previously armed with the opinions of your Division's Council and his ability to convey them to the Convention and discuss them rationally is the reason he has been appointed to represent your State.

The determination arising from the Federal Convention can have far-reaching effects on every member regarding the operation of his station; it is therefore of paramount importance that you take an interest in the proceedings of the Convention, the minutes of which, and the discussions, action and decisions by the Federal Executive, are published in the magazine during the year following the Convention; it is not sufficient that your delegate should travel many miles and sacrifice his time to represent your rights without your interest and support.

Any member is cordially invited to attend the Convention and it is hoped that some of you will turn up to listen to the proceedings with a view to not only having a clearer conception of what you obtain some of the privileges you have, but also in order that you can more fully appreciate the workings of the Institute as a whole.

It goes without saying, of course, that you are not compelled to travel hundreds of miles just to attend the Federal Convention, but often times members from other States are in Melbourne at the time of the Convention and it is some of these members we hope to see this year, and the excuse we have for some Victorian members not to attend!

But if it is impossible for you to attend you can still assist the Institute and your fellow Amateurs by informing yourself in the proceedings of the Convention, where they are published, discuss them intelligently with your Amateur friends, and if you consider that the determinations of your Council could have been improved on, make a note with a view to bringing the matter up for the following Con-

## WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

**VK3WI:** Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7196 Kc and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK3WI intra-State working frequency, 7173 Kc.

**VK3WI:** Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3596 and 7196 Kc, and re-broadcast on 50 and 144 Mc bands. Intra-State working frequency 7185 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations when VK3WI is on the air.

**VK4WI:** Sundays, 0900 hours EST, simultaneously on 3750, 7196 Kc, 14924 Kc, 53.4 Mc. and 144.1 Mc. Frequency checks are given two nights weekly, and the times are announced during Sunday broadcasts. 7093 Kc channel is used from 1000 to 1030 hours each Sunday as VK4WI query service to VK4WI.

**VK5WI:** Sundays, 1000 hours SAST, on 7196 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW by arrangements only on the 7 and 14 Mc bands.

**VK5WI:** Sundays, 0930 hours WAST, on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks available.

**VK7WI:** Sundays, at 1000 hours EST, on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks are available.

## QUEENSLAND

President: J. H. Farrell, VK4WJ.  
Secretary: J. F. Pickles, VK4FP, Box 638J, G.P.O., Brisbane.

Meeting Night: Third Friday in each month at the I.R.E. Rooms, Wickham St., Valley.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Clive J. Cooke, VK4CC, Kurun Street, Chelmsford, Brisbane.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President: E. A. Barber, VK3MD.  
Secretary: G. M. Bowen, VK3XU, Box 1334K, G.P.O., Adelaide.

Meeting Night: Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.

Divisional Sub-Editor: W. W. Parsons, VK3PS, 463 Esplanade, Henley Beach.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: R. W. S. Hugo, VK3EW.  
Secretary: W. E. Coxon, VK3AG, 1 Howard St., Perth.

Meeting Place: Padbury House, Cr. St. George's Ter. and King St., Perth.

Meeting Night: Third Tuesday of each month.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Alec A. Smith, VK3AS, 73 Weston St., Carlisle, Western Australia.

## TAJMANIA

President: J. Brown, VK7BZ.  
Secretary: R. D. O'May, VK7OM, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 183 Elizabeth St., Hobart.

Divisional Sub-Editor: S. Exell, VK7SJ, 77 Mole St., Hobart, Tasmania.

Merit Zone Correspondent: R. H. Kirby, VK7RK, 3 Gelvin St., Launceston.

## SILENT KEY

### VK5XO

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Charlie Parlett, VK5XO, on the evening of 26th January, 1951.

vention the next year, or write to your Divisional Councillor and give him your comments, then if he considers that your comments are constructive he can submit them to your Council for adoption. Any comments or criticisms, can likewise be brought to the notice of your Divisional Councillor at any time during the year—that is what he is there for.

It appears that many members think that their own State Convention is the only means by which agenda items can be forwarded for action by the Federal Executive. This is wrong! You can make suggestions through your Divisional Councillor at any time during the year, through the same channel. If in the opinion of your Councillor your suggestion or criticism is considered to be a Federal matter, he can forward same to Federal Executive for action. It is only with the smooth working of this system that you can obtain everything the Institute and your grand hobby can give you.

Federal Executive wish to thank all active officers and members of all Divisions for their support and co-operation over the past year, and trust that the interest of all members for the ensuing year will be such that the expenditure of Institute funds to hold the 1951 Convention will not have been in vain.

## W.I.A. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

March 3-4: S.E.R.U. Contest—C.W.  
Mar. 9-11: 17th A.R.R.L. Contest—C.W.  
Mar. 16-18: 17th A.R.R.L. Contest—Phone.

## 1951 Federal Convention Time Table

Friday, 23rd March—3.30 to 8 p.m. and 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

Saturday, 24th March—8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, 25th March—3 to 5 p.m. and 6.30 to 10.30 p.m. The evening session will be subject to general business requirements!

Monday, 26th March—8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## SUCCESSFUL A.O.C.G. CANDIDATES

The following is a list of candidates who were successful at the examination for the Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency held on Tuesday, 9th January, 1951:

### New South Wales

Ash, B. H. Box 81, Nyngan.  
Clark, A. E. 28 Great North Road, Abbotsford, W. M. Box 100, North Sydney.  
Morgan, A. H. 128 Victoria Street, Ashfield.  
Smith, A. J. 19 Blenheim Street, Enfield.  
Watkins, N. H. c/o, P.O. Neverlure.

### Victoria

Burrows, C. C. Dechamp Avenue, Lilydale, Chapman, H. N. 147 Reins Street, Morwell.  
Della-Pietra, J. J. 13 Rose Street, Bentleigh.

### Queensland

Hope, J. T. Royal Pde., St. John's Wood, Ashgrove.  
Lewis, J. K. H. Box 7 P.O. Nobby, Lewis, J. R. Orchid St., Enmore, Brisbane.

### South Australia

Lally, T. J. P.O. Box 59, Clare.  
Padman, R. E. 4 Bernard St., Lower Mitcham.  
Vivian, H. E. 69 Livington Avenue, Glenelg.  
Ward, J. E. 101 Gloucester Ave., Glenelg.  
Whysner, R. N. 100 Naval Department, Duran, N.T.

### Western Australia

Field, B. H. E. 11 Alexandra St., South Perth.  
Turner, F. H. 74 Chalmers Road, Mt. Lawley.

### Tasmania

Armstrong, C. H. A., South Arm, Tasmania.

**ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS AND DELETIONS TO AMATEUR CALL SIGNS**

December, 1950, and January, 1951

### ADDITIONS

New South Wales  
2FD—H. W. Thomas, 2 Havilah Ave., Wahroonga.  
2L—A. L. Shearer, 16 Douglas St., Stockton.

(Continued on Page 15, Column 2)

## "SIMPLICITY IN FOUR"

(Continued from Page 7)

It will be noticed that one position of the frequency switch is marked v.f.o. This position permits the transmitter to be v.f.o. operated on 40 with the 807 as a straight amplifier with a 40 metre Command transmitter as v.f.o.

The input circuit for the v.f.o. connection is not tuned and the resistor in the "high" side of the secondary is used to stop a case of instability in the 807 when the v.f.o. connections were switched in.

In one of these transmitters a second switch was used at the input to the first switch bank so that the v.f.o. drove the quadrupler as a doubler on 20 and a quadrupler on 10 metres.

Of course, an 80 metre v.f.o. can be connected in place of the crystal or a switch used to change from one to the other. Do not tune the secondary of the v.f.o. input transformer to avoid oscillation in the first 6V6.

### POWER SUPPLY

The power supply shown is constructed from receiver type components which are not in short supply. If a higher voltage supply is available, up to say 500 volts, then greater power can be obtained, but it is advisable not to increase the crystal and quadrupler voltage above 350.

If modulation is desired, the secondary of the modulation transformer can be connected as shown. Do not connect it in the common B plus lead, and use a separate power supply for the modulator.

Using a simple aerial and the 350 volt power supply one of these transmitters has worked all States on 40 metre phone with ease.

### COIL DATA

L1—45 turns of No. 28 B. & S. enamelled wire close wound on 1" former and mounted inside aluminium coil can 3" high by 1½" diameter.  
L2—13 turns of No. 16 B. & S. enamelled wire 1" diameter and spaced to occupy 2" in length. Self supporting, see text.

L3—3.5 Mc.: 26 turns of No. 20 B. & S. enamelled wire wound on 1½" six pin former to occupy 2" of winding space.

7 Mc.: 14 turns of No. 20 B. & S. enamelled wire wound on 1½" six pin coil former, spaced to occupy 2".

14 Mc.: 9 turns of No. 16 B. & S. enamelled wire, wound on 1½" six pin coil former, spaced to occupy 1½".

28 Mc.: 4½ turns of No. 16 B. & S. enamelled wire, wound on 1½" coil former, spaced to occupy 1½". Coupling link to be determined by trial. See text.

L4—Primary: 6 turns of No. 20 B. & S. enamelled wire, close wound at earthed end of secondary winding. Secondary: 30 turns of No. 26 B. & S. enamelled wire, close wound, coil former 1" diameter. L4 is placed inside an aluminium coil can, 3" high by 1½" diameter.

## FEDERAL

(Continued from Page 14)

2MR—J. E. Stewart, Villa Rd., Waratah, Newcastle.  
2PG—J. H. Gore, 12 Pearl St., Newtown.  
2PJ—W. D. Taylor, 14 Farler St., Stockdale.  
2AS—W. Storer, 17 Harrington St., Marrickville.  
2ABR—A. W. Rushby, 50 Salisbury Rd., Guilford.  
2ACV—A. G. Mukasy, 38 Ballast Point Rd., Edgecliff.  
2ACZ—H. C. Edwards, "Sandysways," Myola Rd., Newport Beach.  
2AHH—N. A. Hanson, Ryan Av., W. Kempsley.  
2AKZ—C. D. Bennett, 29 Worcester St., Nowra.  
2APF—P. D. Ashby, 133 Gloucester St., Lakemba.  
2AQF—E. A. F. Fawcett, 35 Victoria St., Paddington.  
2AZQF—J. H. L. Field, Fallonview, Deniliquin.  
2AQI—N. J. Lupton, 10 Tingha St., Chatswood.  
2ATA—A. A. Tavares, 14 Glebe St., Edgecliff.  
2AXE—R. R. Smith, Cr. Gipp & Cobain Sts., Double Bay.  
2AXY—R. J. Aspasia, 136 Charles St., Ryde.

### Victoria

3YQ—K. V. Roget, 43 William Gr., North Keilor.  
3APH—H. F. Huon, 55A Maitland St., Glen Iris.  
3AJP—J. H. Power, "The Shack," Seventh St., Merbein.  
3AGW—R. O. Wilkey, 97 Wattletree Rd., Malvern.  
3AIM—R. J. McNabb, Newstead.  
3AUH—R. H. Gordon, A22121 J. T. Big. A. and G.R.S. R.A.A.F., Ballarat.  
3AVC—J. E. Keeling, 4 Grace St., Moonee Ponds.  
3AXC—R. I. Caporn, 12 Roosevelt Cr., East Brighton.

### Queensland

4ET—A. E. Tonge, Cr. Lamberton Rd. & Central Av., Indooroopilly.  
4NG—R. H. Greenwood, 12 Bishop St., Rockhampton.  
4HW—H. J. Weatherley, East St., Clifton.  
4XG—F. W. Lewis, Vimbal Hill Cres., Seven Hills.

### South Australia

5EW—C. C. W. Smith, 22 Jervois St., Torrensville.  
5ED—R. L. Trebarne, 4 Shannon St., Blair Athol.  
5KF—M. R. Dow, 36 Alexandra St., Prospect.  
5LZ—J. R. Mcale, 8 Deacon Av., Marion.  
5MZ—F. E. Bentley, 30 Neil Rd., Cowendilla, Adelaide.

### Western Australia

6RD—H. R. Doherty, 42 South St., Albany.  
6XE—P. H. Doherty, "Annfield," Keymer St., Fremantle.

### Territories

1DC—D. J. Cheffins, Heard Island.  
1JK—K. T. Johnson, Heard Island.  
1NL—N. T. Lied, Heard Island.  
1WO—W. H. Oldham, Heard Island.

## South Australia

SWD—Cancelled. Western Australia

EWJ—Cancelled, now operating under VK3AGW. Tasmania

TNL—Cancelled, now operating under VK3AJL. Territories

1PG—Cancelled.

## FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3EJ, MANAGER

Henri, PK3J, mentions via VK3SYL, that he has sent QSLs to over 50 VK3 stations but up to date has not received one card in reply. Stations owing Henri a card are requested to expedite same. Thanks for the greetings Australia. These are heard regularly.

Heard on 14 Mc. e.w. between 1400-1500 GMT on 20 Mc. on 14/20/1951. QSL'd. PK3SYL, SV3AG, VASB. Last named after one QSO with 4XAJL closed down. Scores of other Europeans were audible at good strengths at same time.

4XAE, Box 4069, Tel Aviv, Israel. PK3AA. Radio Station, Balikpapan, Borneo, Indonesia.

Heard Island replacements who left by the "Labuan" recently are VK1NA (Nils Leid); VK1NB (John Smith); VK1NC (John Lowe Chells). All of these Hams have had extensive tuition at the hands of Leon Paul, VK3XO and will not answer stations on their own frequency. They propose to use QLM, QHM, six, etc. stations on an endeavour to bring the needed discipline to the Australian and Ruthless stations. Stations bursting in or calling before a contact is completed will be blacklisted and not answered on that or any succeeding day. Contact VK1NA or VK1NB or Leon Paul, or to Leon, at 346 Rathmines Hill Cres., Seven Hills, to this Bureau. Complete logs will be preserved and all QSLs answered on return to Australia in 1953.

While on the subject of QSLs from Antarctica, VK1NA has lost his log or does not intend to QSL. It would be appreciated if a public statement to this effect was made as overseas and local stations continue to send repeat cards to this Bureau. Letters from this Bureau to the published address of VK1NA have not been answered. No reply nor have the letters been returned. This seems to indicate that they are being delivered. Some announcement as outlined above would save a lot of our time. Managers, time and allay a great deal of heartbreak and over seas stations who continue to clamor for a QSL. The good name of VK Hams is suffering.

The Radio Club of Chile again brings under notice its W.A.C.E. Award. The award is made to any foreign amateur who has worked one

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station in each of the seven radio districts of Chile. Phone or c.w. contacts made on any Amateur band after 19th November, 1945, will count. The seven cards should be sent to the Radio Club of Chile, Box 1000, Santiago, Chile, and will be returned by registered mail together with the certificate. No return postage need be enclosed.

It is stated that DIAWS will shortly be heard from Andrew, 1P0C, and will be listed.

Don Dickinson, JA3DD, writes: "As I am going off the air this week after two years in Japan, I would like to have you pass on to the VK fellows my appreciation for all the time and trouble you have given me. Practically no day has passed without a contact (83 stations worked). I have gone through my card file and made up these duplicates in hopes that I can receive confirmation from the stations.

No, I am not giving up the path I am taking

that VK QTH of ex-VRA3. Ron Garrett, who it is rumored is now in VKC. Can anyone supply?

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The usual monthly meeting of the Division was held at Science House on Friday, 22nd December, 1950, being opened at 7.45 p.m. The month's accumulation of correspondence received the usual attention and a number of motions were adopted to the benefit of the Division. Visitors present were given a hearty welcome to the meeting by the President, Mr. J. Corbin. A discussion on the various agenda items for the 1951 Federal Convention was then proceeded with, finally, to allow the showing of a number of amazing films.

The sympathy of the Division was extended to relatives and friends of the late Bill Cottrell, ex-VK2ZN. Bill was extremely well known, being one of the real pioneers in the art. He will be greatly missed by the members and all who knew him.

20Q is still going strong on 30; has pruned his antenna beam to the 100 degree and is working staff the local DX men. 2AZH has been doing nothing heard of Vince lately; how is the ASV on 144 Mc? 2AMJ has been on 144, 40 and 20, but not on 10 metres as yet; has been working to improve the 20 metre beam of late. 2XH is trying the 100 degree with excellent results. 2EL must be stacking up the napkins instead of DX,

nothing heard since the arrival of a new junior op. 2MJ and 2AJE were heard in caboots regarding the virtues of Port Hacking recently. 2MJ and 2AJE just can't forget "Bucking Billy", "the last of the wild ones". 2AJE is working ZATL working a few good ones on 20 metre phone. 2WB is heard infrequently but Arch uses his beam to good effect.

## EASTERN SUBURBS

A highlight of the doings around this region has been the receipt of the promised 2AYE QSL card, in which design Dave has done a good job. The theme is fully Australian with aboriginal smoke signals drifting in the hazy sky with the letters 2AYE in the background. I wonder they sign off with "Dave's 2CE". Recently I visited Woy Woy to show off a very compact 144 Mc. rig installed in the car. In a demonstration to interested parties, he called CQ and immediately found a DXer just across the road; 2CE has now completed the conversion to an ASV unit for use on 144 Mc; has also acquired a new commercial Rx. 2AQH doesn't seem to be heard at all these days, but I hear that Ted has been up and heard him for some time. The gang at 2CE send many thanks for a speedy recovery. OM 2BC heard pounding the brass with a consistent 500 signal. 2AJE seems to be always up to his eyes in some job or other and this time it was the programme for this year's North Coast Zone Convention scheduled again for Urunga, 2h. Job OM.

2AJF has hopes of starting a 144 Mc. net in the Bondi-Waverley area (shades of pre-war 8 metres!). Stations known to be interested in 144 Mc. are VK4, 2AYE, 2AYH, 2TN and 2FJ. There are dozens more that would like to be in but don't need time to get gear built. The thought prompts this scribble to remark that it might be a good idea to foster v.h.f. nets as suggested in the editorial in "QST" for December. 2AJG just completed a new modulation unit for 144 Mc. and is now using it exclusively to phone operation for a holiday and relaxation; the quality is very good. 2QZ virtually rocked the gang by appearing on 40 metre phone to compete to hold converter with rubber duck in VK4. 2BC on 20 metres worked with good quality and sometimes a few unwanted little parasites to the low freq. side is 2EP. Puts in a lot of time checking with 2AZH. This area has a Amateur of note who has not been heard from in 20 years and surely deserves a card. He is Dave Medler, now VK2AWM, Bondi, and

latterly SAK (Darwin) and JMJ (Melbourne). For the benefit of those who don't know their v.h.f. history it was 2MJ who made the first interstate QSO on 8 metres with 2NO four years ago.

Visited 2YC, W.L.A. N.S.W. President, and found Jim entirely surrounded by a mass of incoming QSL cards complete with pretty pictures. I wonder if the DX cards we used to receive from the 20s and 30s had to be sent somewhere to the end of the line? I used to receive a card from the 20s and 30s—kind of lifting of the curtain? The other evening a protracted discussion developed on 40 metre phone in which your reporter found himself in the minority. It was over a simple question but I feel on that occasion gave an immediate answer to at the moment. The question was, just which comprised the correct connections for the 2F50 valve, otherwise the 2F50—was it the base, plate, ground or the EF50, if that was possible (See "A.R.", Nov 1946, p.8-Ed.). Seems that somebody had been using a 6 metre converter employing an EP564 with anode and screen connections reversed, and getting results.

That ultimatum in the last issue of zone notes still stands. If you have heard anything on the subject about things then the time will come when the lone pen must lapse. Latest activity at 2NO is the testing of a new experimental Amateur band Rx which is proving to be something coming along with two bands at 110 Mc. in the final channel and handles calls for phone just about right, with selectivity such that the dial above gaps between signals that overlap considerably in the same channel. 455 Mc. if Rx. The crystal controlled oscillator output provides a remarkable in stability and makes life a real joy for the c.w. DX addict. The tuner is a converted Command type Rx with adapted dial giving comfortably wide bandspread but with speedy coverage. Final set-up will cover all the Amateur DX bands.

## NORTH COAST AND TABLELANDS

All roads lead to the Urunga Convention at Easter, March 24, 25 and 26. The Convention promises to be the best yet held in Australia. If you have not as yet made your plans, do it now. It will be a great experience and remember and who likes a side is 2EP. Cine-Sound camermen will be here to make a news reel. If you have portable gear bring it along and make the newswards a success. An additional event in the form of a cup has been donated by United Radio Distributors, for the Urunga Scramble Contest.



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Wet weather stopped most of the coastal gang taking part in the National Field Day Contest, the only one active in the rain was ZRK, 2AJB now at Kyogle is active again and with 2ABO and 2ABP now in the area. The 2ABP gang may have been quite a few paces from there although the town was in flood. 2LX has erected a 6 and 10 metre beam. ENY reports conditions poor on all bands. EGI heard testing his emergency beam and antenna system. 2CJ has a new rig and using an ATU as a v.t.a. 2CJ completed his new house and back on the reef off the Harbour gang are active again. send me some news. Jim and Bellring River gang were operating during the flood emergency. 2LX's set and antenna were installed at the Bellring Police Station in case of emergency.

The R.L. for the North Coast and Tablelands District, Mr. E. Brisban, advises that all Amateurs requiring special permission to operate portable, etc., within this zone should apply through the Armidale Wireless Branch.

SARY has not been enjoying the best of

health of late and is again in Yarral. Associate member Percy Sara, father of the Quadra, was watching the last day of the competition from the C.G.C. stand. Percy hopes to have a call sign before the Urunga Convention - the best of luck, Percy. 2XO had a number of visitors from the U.S.A. and ZAFEX, IAPC, IJC, ADAC, DQ, ZAGC, SUW, SQI, and the like gang and a good time was had by all. IAPC and IJC were active with portable gear at Urunga. EDK also had visitors EMM and ECU from the U.S.A. and ZAFEX. A visitor from the European Commonwealths and Narrabeen SCUD had his truck stolen. It was later found stripped over a cliff in the Mountains. IAPC and ZAFEX visited the big smoke over the weekend. EDK had a booth at the Urunga competition and held a competition for the best painting submitted for the shack at

**MUNTER BLANCH**

The 22 January meeting as usual was well attended by 22 members being present. Visitors included **DAVE** from Sydney who brought up the Urunga Convention Trophy for the Hunter boys to **BERSING**, Eric Trabekle of Civil Aviation Melbourne. **DAVE** was present. **LL** was down, and so did it again to **ALAN**. A very interesting lecture was given by **Frank Cross (SPX)** on "Signal Tracing". **Frank** demonstrated his tracer and showed how intermittent faults could be definitely tracked down, a thing that most radio clubs overlook. The meeting was adjourned with the usual **THREE**. It is anticipated that the February meeting will also be of interest especially for the 144 gang, as **SADT** and **ZB2** are lined up to give an account of their 444 **MC** experiences.

Branch at the Divisional Hamfest held over Australia Day week-end. It was a pity Lionel didn't have the opportunity of addressing the gathering at the Dinner. Lionel went down with XT and had a good time. On the way back they operated portable from near the Boys' Home, Gosford, with Bill's Type A.

the Mt. Superior for operation in the National Field Day. From what we know we should be able to get a special Party license for the LANA, 2SL, 2AXM and 2PT. The latter made a hurried trip up with the XYL for a couple of hours. The gear consisted of v.f.o. and xtal. 1007 final on 40, 20 and 8. Antenna 475 foot long. The 2000 foot high peak was a good one but probably the 6 metre gear couldn't be used even after erecting the beam beat. Batteries gave out as it was, so they decided to concentrate on 40 and 20. The party divided into DX, included WY, KCH and ZL which were districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, one 899 report was received from a W on 40. One new motor cycle was found abandoned in the bush nearby and the word was passed back to the Police about it. The XYL and I had eaten up the "Desperate" sandwiches that were served up; they would have fainted—you wanted a big mouth or you didn't eat. All in all, a great time was had by all present.

There were others that enjoyed down to Sydney for the Hamfest—they spent a very pleasant week-end. 2BZ took his holidays at the end of January, and has been quiet except for a few 280's on 6, and a 2ABX visit to Bairnsdale. He was very busy much of the time, but I think he's done much to his new rig for weeks. A new 2P11 to the Ham ranks here is Bill Taylor (PBY), of Stockton, using v.f.o. 807 final, can't recall his calls, but he's been plenty calling you on 46. Jim Brock (Sedgemoor) has been to the North Coast on holidays in his car and had a great time. 2CZ didn't like work after his holidays, his portable was of great use, as when the rains came, Jim was able to do some operating. 2CZ had a great time at Sugarloaf. 2YR...

will bring back a telegraph pole. His new modulator is doing well on 144, the 40 final is finished too. 2A3MM on 144 with p.p. 17252 and a dipole, the e.r.o. is operating too. There is a 2 over 3 over 2PT, 2CX, 2AGY, SCN, 3BZ, 2ADT, TUF, 2ADS and 2CX. 2XY has his new modulator on 144, active again on 20 c.w. as well as 40. 2AG is back on 144, active again on 20 c.w. as well as 40. 2AG's first W. Hill could hardly talk ZARK will be on 144 soon, has the Rx going. 2AGY thinks the power restrictions may be the reason for the drop in his last power level. I want to know the condition the northern roads ask 2AK, 2ADT will give you a hole to hole description. 2WP2 putting out a nice signal from Marks Point. 2XG has his gear well balanced and working well. 2AGY is soon. I think the junior op. may be hurrying Dad along 1PDX still busy at home.

## COALFIELDS AND LAKES

No notes this month and thereby hangs a tale. Z.O. Harry Hawkins (SYL) duly wrote them and handed them on to be posted, but they didn't reach a box. It is generally the husband that carries the letters around, but not in this case! Enough said.

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Try to write notes about shape who won't let me type them up. I can't do it for you. You can't do it. Just once, one little item of news from each station in the zone and we would have a nice fat batch of notes. Over the years we have taken a lot of notes and we'll be eternally grateful. Summerline conditions and the opening of the 50 Mc band has stimulated activity out west and the following stations have been active: ZADW, 2AMV and 2WHD, Forbes, 2JW and 2ALK, Orange, 2LZ and 3LY in the Blue Mountains. 2JW and 2ALK took portable 50 Mc gear, some of the time, and the results were excellent. They had no trouble in working Dubbo and Forbes. Head IARC at Palm Beach at good strength, but no ZADW, 2AMR and 2AMV have worked the North under the same band conditions contacting ZADW and 2UGU. 2AMV and 2WHD have got as far south as 3PN at Tumut.

ed to Mt. Panorama near Bathurst. Much able, though the first few long BNS and EAGN, hospitals' quality of their equipment, as may thanks Trevor and Graham. Failure of a pet driven 240v. alternator left us very short h. l. supply and operation was restricted to about 1000 hours. The stations were: 1. Mt. Panorama, 2. Mt. Hotham, 3. Mt. Buller, 4. Mt. Stirling, 5. Mt. Baw Baw, 6. Mt. Buller. Four of the six continents were worked at Mt. Panorama. Much fun and no sleep was had by all! The 1000 hours of operation was not bad, but has a new receiver that really is a receiver, but doesn't expect the over 500. Nice to hear asym-

strength reporting, Rod. Nothing heard from XGA for a long time; hope you still have your station in Broken Hill. For a time the silence the Parkes group of Hams in the area. With four of them in the town and only 20 miles away, one would expect to hear something sooner or later. The last strayed column, XZL was the last one heard, using a 500 W. modulator inc. The rumour the XZL was drawn in the October flood is completely false. The station is now moved twenty miles up-stream to Eudunda.

From Dubbo the only stations I know to be active are ZAP on 7 Mc and LAMR on 7 and 8 Mc. No signs of war been burned up trying to make the 100 W. modulator work on six, but no luck to date. Hotbed of v.h.f. in Western Falls; dropped in to say hello to ZLZ, ZAFO and ZPL. No, there hasn't a Ham antenna on those 200 ft. mts. in the Blue Mountains.

JKR is toying with the idea of settling on 15. Some shifts doaylight to work would suit him. JOLLY is migrating to VMS and busy packing at the moment—we are sorry to loose you Sam, but wish you all the best in the new venture. JHILL will be closest to finishing the shack, plenty of timber about—Stringy's 50 foot high—hub no one will sell him any cut up. JEP not active at the moment, seems to have a receiver going again, but is likely to take up work as a comedian. A few W.I.A. Convention he assisted the magician and still don't know who put on the best show.

## SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHERN

What with between blackouts and test matches little time has been available to gather in notes however, this month they mainly come from two sources, Geoff Page, of Tumut, and Reg George, of Cooma. First of all let me assure you of my respect at least Geoff, the report on your signals last month was meant to be a feature in the magazine but was held up by the editor in running 20 words to an 857 but he has plans to re-build shortly using band switching and 454s. A new station heard this month is JAKY or perhaps an old station I haven't heard before. Tooby is located at Holbrook and is using an antenna for good advantage. RAID is active but fades out at darkness, however.

with the name "Pedro the Fry" bestowed upon him by no other than **ED51**. A new QRO is under way and nattering about the tuning of the beam is the order of the day when **ED51** is active again after his long absence from the ITM. Monty now at **JUNEE running 27** wants to see the old faithful **ED7**. **JALUN** is on for a few minutes now and again working the 40 gang **JALL** has a solid signal and is over his splatter problem. **ED51** is working the 40 gang **ED51** has a solid signal. **ED1** and **VF** **Heather** had an **ED50** with **JALL**. The signal was a little hard **LED**, what about some oil in the carbon mike? Nice going with 20 countries on **QRP** **ED51**. **ED51** and **ED50** **WU1** the **NA** **ED51** is in the recording business. **Lindsay** **ED51** on **7** **ED51** believe **30** not so good but **ED51** has a new Rx. **ED51** your review of the **AWA** **1v** on **40** was of great interest. **ED51** has been on holidays

news. IAMD and SAOX active stations down on the Coast both with good signals but they can't write letters with the news somehow. SAOX has both phase and amplitude modulation installed, but only uses one at a time. Reports show preference for plate modulation. Brother Geoff and I have been talking to each other about your friend EAJD these days? Haven't heard EAJD for ages, believe he used the same antenna as myself for a long time. Don't be surprised if I ever struck a better one, 50 feet aside from the old one. What's your opinion of N7A? I can't find time to play Ham Radio, but visits IN8, I'll bet the DX gets a facine during the stay. A new station will be on shortly, that when I get time to build a power supply for the ATU. Forget the call, but e.u.t. JALS in the news panel on his ATU. EDO busy building new power supply for TA1SD and hopes to have a trans with gang soon. Thanks to Rag and Geoff for the notes.

## VICTORIA

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All fair weather in the zone this month as far as holidays go. Lakeside and these blokes get the dough to go on holidays. BB, plus brand new Holden also at the same cost! must be money as well as *swagout* in sausages. Bert, my boy! Rex and Gwen now have a new car and are off to the beach for servicing as well as playing round on six with DI, JTH, SQZ and company. JPR still living in cream cake. JAMP conspicuous by his absence from the boot-up where are you Kel? Another batch-arrived version, this time from N.Y.C. *YACHT* *JARE* *YACHT* building, 90, 9, *SW 9th St.*

our b.c.f.s.  
JABP paid a flying visit to VK1-Macquarie Island on the 11th of April. Bill says "Bud, you'll make DX.C.C. without trying it".  
JADA has us in the grip of the t.v. bug with his lectures at the Sub-Branch meetings. The Sale Branch meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Mechanics Hall.  
JWE on the job again when the Omega Hospital urgently needed oxygen and a bush fire was burning in the hills between Omega and Bairnsdale. Unable to reach VK3, Bill finally contacted a Newcastle VK3 who in turn passed Bill's message to the VK3 Police, requesting the oxygen to be sent from Melbourne by air. The meeting was adjourned and up and a VK3 heard Bill and he contacted the authorities in Melbourne who had the juice from Bairnsdale by taxi. Nice going, William, we're proud of you!

#### SOUTH WESTERN ZONE

Very little news of zone members this month for two reasons—your usual scribe, JAKR, is ready in camp channelling his best efforts at writing, presented a new book—“How to be 80 metres” was a washout as far as this end was concerned. However, Kevin promised you all some more news of the Mt Busselton trip this month so here goes.

The results will be well known by now, and we can expect the SAW and SCOT on your airwaves. The excitement when we heard the 2 metre sign from VK3 will be long remembered. The party consisted of JUR, 3CR, JAKR, 3BV, 3ALC, SAGD, and associate member Tony Watson. In full working order was to be found the radio gear, camping equipment, provisions and \$13.6s, we approached the mountain on Saturday evening and after exploring all the tracks, eventually arriving just as it got dark.

By 1000 hours next morning all was ready, then the fun started. The alternator would not turn over, so we had to use the 200 watt ribbon, started to give trouble on the beam. While taking it down, unfortunately Ken's head got in the way. However, each problem was attacked with feverish activity and after Kevin had a go at the alternator, he took the alternator and made it play ball, we fixed the beam and started again. This time all was well. The 40 metre line consisted of Type 3 Tx. SICL antenna 347, 100 watt, and many good contacts were made. The 200 watt ribbon had to work 3LN portable VK5 at Henley Beach. All present varied the trip well worth while, and decided to try it again sometime. So now that we have the gear, results next time should be really something to write about.

SIC brushing the dust off an ATB, SAW working some DX on c.w. and experimenting with various types of QACs, SAW had to go to work 3LN portable VK5 at Henley Beach. All present varied the trip well worth while, and decided to try it again sometime. So now that we have the gear, results next time should be really something to write about.

#### GEELONG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Members of the above Club met once again on 3rd January for their first meeting for 1951. Although the meeting was not a success due to the fact of quite a few being away on holidays, some very important business was discussed. The night was an open night and the gang had a real chew on their antennas. As that night members quite naturally turned out we admitted couple of visitors. The lecturer for the evening was club member, Jack Beckingham, AMIRE, who lectured on aircraft v.h.f. transmitters including the SCR622 and 3TR3 and gave figures on their performance.

The next club night members organised another antenna hunt. This is always popular with members so at 8.30 p.m. the members set off to see who would direct them to the hidden xmitter first. The xmitter was well hidden in a ditch parallel with the road which made it hard to find. The location was well planned and operated by SAW and SCOT. The winner was SCOT with his 40 metre decay antenna. First party to arrive at the location was 3SY, 3AKD, and 3ALG. They, however, were not fooled with the decoys and located the xmitter about 100 yards further on. Second to arrive were 3AJP, 3AOF, Keith Muller and Peter Cartwright quite some time after the winners.

#### NORTH EASTERN ZONE

3AT has new 16Y antenna for 40-80-10, good results on 30. Peter Williams, 3AT, visited 3EDW and 3EDV with very high hopes that he passes his Morse test last exam, and is tied up with the intricacies of building stable v.f.o.'s and freq. meter. 3KCR now sounds like the H-E-C with climes continuing on in the house, depending on conditions the receiver is switched on or off Zone Bendix freq. meter in continual use over Benalla way, so much so that I think the writing must be read off the dial. 3AJP is on 3 metres.

3ACK yacht making instead of planes. 3KZL has a new boat. Sid has been very inactive lately in the radio field. 3SB visited 3UJ, both Sid and Alan, at Mt. Cooper, made several contacts on 8 and 2 including 3AJP, 3AT and 3ALE. 3ALE now has plate modulation, seems much better. 3AOF has a very nice indicator. Les also has new rock ground for 50 Mc. 3AJP on a motor tour down Portland district and visited 3DW at Woodend. 3AJO has a Type A Mark III. in pieces. Jack will have to replace

a fractured crystal before we hear him on. 3AT with the help of 3UJ has a radio installed in his car. Now that JAGT has an XYL, I can't even find him, let alone get a word in edgeways. Don't bite me, Marg. 3UZ on annual leave.

JVV is back with us again after a long sojourn in hospital. His return not too successful. I'm told 3EDW contacted ex-cone member 3DW, now at Woodend, best wishes from the zone Doug. 3FD in Melbourne. Andy's modulator is still in the parts bin. 3AGT has 8 metres gear about ready for use. 3UJ has also been making contacts with 285 Mc gear. 3TF out with 3UJ and 3SD on v.h.f. field day, called in on SGID on way home. 3PV visited 3YV 3KCR still needing "S" meter in his crystal set. 3AKB now has XYL, however, he is now the general manager. 3EDV? Most shacks were over the 180 degrees mark on hook-up. With all the hot air emanating from same, is it any wonder. Thanks Howard for your specifications on my behalf, but in full fairness to 3AJP and 3UZ I must say that they supplied the bulk of the notes this month.

#### QUEENSLAND

Having lost or mislaid the original notes which were prepared for this column this month, I have had to rush around as quickly as 4AT works the DX to try and complete something to fill the space. I am sure the zone managers will be more forthcoming in the future. I am not sure if it doesn't really matter what goes in here at the beginning of the Queensland news. There was such a poor attendance and apparently lack of interest in the election of members that was impossible to actually elect those who were nominated for the many posts. However, it was noted that few members other than the usual selection were prepared to shoulder the responsibilities which go with the honour of being nominated for a position.

For those of you who have so far taken this attitude, you are reminded that it is not only selfish, but is entirely unfair that a few should be obliged to carry your burdens year in and year out. If you have had no previous experience and are not the post holder, just take the opportunity to further your knowledge. After all we are only Amateurs anyhow. If we all held the same attitude that you do, the W.I.A., as far as Queensland is concerned, would soon cease to exist and before very long you

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would be wondering why you had so many restrictions or loss of privileges that most likely you would be the first one to complain about lack of organisation. Therefore with these thoughts in mind, it is hoped that next time you are nominated you will accept without tendering some excuse of being too busy or some such thing. However, if we in office could also find quite a lot to do besides helping you and our organisation.

#### CLARE'S CORNER

The band is livening up again as the local VK4 boys, who have been on holidays, are gradually returning to the band. The first few who have been away enjoying the beautiful Queensland sunshine while it lasted were 4TB, 4PN, and 4MT. 4TB is still on holidays, and is at present visiting VK3 land. Arthur is renewing his contacts, he made while working as VK1 on Heard Island and might even find time to pay a quick visit to VK3 land, if only to have a quick one with 3VD.

Heard 4VA in a three-way with 4VJ and 4RT the other evening with a very 1b. signal. Bill was operating from a temporary QTH using a home-made beam. 4VJ was heard a week later from Redcliffe using a five watts input, with a piece of wire strung out the caravan window but when Bill turned the beam on Redcliffe's lost Fred. Conditions are certainly screwy. Maybe 4KZ could solve the mystery. Congratulations to 4VA who arrived home a distinguished another. Another c.w. man who bobbed up on phone after eighteen months' absence was 4CF. We will probably hear a lot more from Gil judging from the f.b. phone reports he is getting. 4VJ has the advantage of a holiday to have a complete "one-build" including serial; Bill is now punching a hole in the ether with his new rig.

4KZ recently transferred to Brisbane from the north and is operating from Northgate. Harry worked quite well, but is now away, and is likely to work quite a lot down there. 4AH whose QTH is fairly close to Norman Creek, has fears that if this rain keeps up, he may become a fixed portable KHS. Let's hope not.

#### DARLING DOWNS ZONE

Highlight of zone activity for the month of January has been 50 Mc. stuff. Considering the number of stations that have been taking the belt for percentage of 6 metre enthusiasts. As a matter of fact we go as far as saying that 4XN, 4KA, and 4CU take the palm for being Queensland's most enthusiastic 6 metre men—however, one man, gentle and the month they have reaped the harvest of VK1 and ZK opening.

Friends, Romans, and countrymen, I hereby withdraw my nasty remarks re 50 Mc. You can definitely hear signals there—tremendous ones. 4TY got into one big opening during the contest. 4CG can now work 4CU (30 miles south) and 4KZ and we will. 4XN is a tougher proposition, but QSOs have been made. 4CG has worked 4BT in Brisbane. 4HR has been heard a number of times in Toowoomba. In just over fortnight on the band, 4CG has worked VK3, 4, 5, and 6, and ZL and 2nd power 350 watts on 50 Mc. and now 4KZ has worked 4XN and high. 50 Mc. is so matter-of-fact with 4CU that he gets bored at working them!

On the other bands conditions have been very mediocre. 14 Mc. turns it on late at night, but not much. 4QH has had it for a high most of the time. 18 Mc. has "had it" for a few years it seems—nothing worth staying there for generally, 7 Mc. playing its usual summer tricks with fade-ups, etc. We have had to copy W.L.A. on 15 Mc. on Sunday mornings, where the conditions were good.

4IG heard braving the solar storms on 20 for a few nights; worked his first DX and got that thrill that only first DX can give. No signs of 4L or 4CK. Maybe it is holiday time in these hills. 4ZK threatened to be in 6 months time if 4CG's "beam" got him in. Heard 4CK on in Warwick. Likewise welcome re-appearance of 4CH, 4LS at Goondiwindi in the far southwest putting out nice stuff.

4KZ and 4L—of third party stuff going on, particularly on 46. Downs zone members are urged to read the message from our R.L. in a recent issue and thoroughly digest same. Then rest assured that the Department means business. Stick closely to the reg's, and you won't get "kicked out" of the band. Merely the "Gypsy's warning" blockies—but it's on. 13 and sleep well.

#### TOWNSVILLE ZONE

4EJ had a spell in hospital recently took ill with pleurisy, when over holidaying on the island; on c.w. occasionally, but not very active, lately. 4GD not active either, also been holidaying over at the island. 4BX heard with some phone, not very active. 4TU has been heard on 40 metres phone keeping sheds with

VK3 and nice phone too. 4GF doesn't get much time these days but has also been heard on 40 metres phone along with 15 watts to get some sort of a nice signal. 4AD a new addition to the staff of the local national station, is busily engaged a small transmitter, and was heard talking seriously about the merits of a 700 Mc. rig.

4DB, after a lop of a few months' studying, has got the fever again and has almost completed a "mighty atom" portable Tx with a single 207 in final, hand switched for 7, 14 and 28 Mc.—a very compact job which will have a mighty kick. Other notes: 4KZ has had some mention of the DX worked, etc., with this job. 4RW has been busy with alterations to his beam antenna and is still active on 14 Mc. phone, but like all of the rest of the gang, conditions are not good. 4KZ has a new beam. Yes it is true 4EL is on phone, has not been seen the light and put in a decent modulator, pair of 616s in Class AB1, and believe it or not he is more than satisfied as, after 18 years on c.w. looking for a YN, blown me down if he doesn't work. 4KZ has the same story with his new phone. Still at it on c.w. with 4GZA, now up to 480 contacts!

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly general meeting of the VK5 Division for January was held at the meeting room in the South Australian Government Radio Engineering School. A large, representative and very satisfied audience listened with rapt attention to a most interesting talk on "Helical Beams" delivered in fine style by John Bellinger (4ECK). The talk was a great success and the audience enjoyed the using of homemade helical beam complete with a boy's house gate as a reflector, fairly laid the boy in the aisles. The many and varied questions asked at the close of the talk were ample proof that the talk had been well received. John is to be congratulated on a fine night's entertainment. The vote of thanks was proposed by SEA to which the audience responded in no mean manner.

There was no doubt of the spunk of the average member when general business comes up at the monthly meetings. "Zonkoo" follows the lecture, and when the meeting re-assembles, more than two-thirds of the audience have gone. On well, "twas ever thus. In fact if I could cut myself off from the President, I think I would give it a go.

Latest advice from England gives John Sheard the call sign G3CYO, although as yet no contacts with VK5 have been made. A little later and me on two little bits and pieces have arrived from the two of the boys from John. Some people have all the luck.

It has been rumoured lately that if prominent citizens 5CY would be visiting many countries as his reported gold score now stands it, it would be a good idea to change the name to the VK5 C.C. Robt. Gurr (ex-SHG, now 3ARQ) came back to VK5 to get himself engaged; and I believe that SHX was married last September, best wishes Phil and please excuse the lateness of the news.

The VK5 Advisory Council for 1951 comprises the following gentlemen: J. Sullivan (VK1J), D. Williams (VK1D), T. H. T. (VK1T), C. C. Ford (SLC), H. Townsend (4HT) and F. Bourne (4SDU). The Chairman will again be Mr. Len Thompson of the P.M.G.'s. Department. As the year goes by, some of you will call them an "advisory council" by most, rightly or wrongly, a distinction to be made from the "advisory members of the W.I.A. I could have the wrong idea, however, and if no someone will quickly and lively tell me, but at least I am not alone in this idea.

Individually, I feel that some of my readers may think that expressions of opinion on my part are outside the normal duties of a scribe. By way of explanation I would like to point out that I simply express the majority opinion of VK5 in coming to a stand on various parts. In other words, I simply act as a recording and talking. I repeat, a talking Gallup Poll. The Greeks had another word for it but we will skip that.

4SKR returned from a three weeks' holiday at the seaside and has been heard on 7 and 14 Mc. c.w. 4TW had a quiet month, but Tom has managed to sneak in a few contacts on 28 and 7 Mc. just to keep his ear in. 4SHX manages a few contacts on 14, 14 and 7 Mc.; Claude is house

building and naturally that is a full time job on its own. 3M8 is another who is home building and his activities is not like 4KZ who works 10 hours a day to earn and work the Grampians gang on 444 Mc. on the weekend of 13th-14th January. Peter had everything good, a good location, a good aerial, a good receiver, a good transmitter, but unfortunately no good antenna. Luck was with 4CJ and he found a friend on 444 Mc., but being an operator at the base station of the Emergency Fire Service, it does not leave much time for Amateur Radio. Visitors at the "Mount" over the holidays seem included 4ZQ and 4XW, 4OW and 4PM. The Mount Gambier must have something to attract all the visitors that seem to gravitate there during the holidays.

Heard today that the Secretary of the VK5 Division, 4XW, has had to go to hospital and we are all very sorry to hear it. 4M0 will again act as Secretary during "Shylock's" absence.

SGT seems to be one of the few able to have and work the DX on 14 Mc. these days. He has been heard on 14 Mc. and has visited fifteen countries on phone; nice work Ray. 4SKW is another of the River boys to get going on 6 metres. 4SKW has become a six metre fan these days and is all to be believed is having a good time on that band. 4SKW and 4SLW (SLW) was well to the fore with his ocean type boat at the Field Day, so I am told, but his naval hat resembled something between a scarecrow and an advertisement for a well known brand of tobacco. Tut, tut, Admiral, where was your dignity?

SEA was a welcome visitor to the general meeting and met quite a number of chaps who were previously only call signs; very pleased to meet you Fred and by now you have heard from 4SL 1 R.L. Have received number of greetings from the boys there. There is I am getting lazy and am only putting the call signs in these notes and leaving out the names. I deny it. I deny it I cannot tell a lie, with his red pencil the editor is doing it. Noticed 4SKY limning around the streets of Adelaide the other day. Don't know the cause, but was wondering if he did it the day that the fire broke out next to the A.B.C. studios. I believe that several of the gang broke one hundred yards less than even time when they saw the smoke.

With these notes nearly ready to go to press, I am in the poor position of not being able to say much about the Field Day held on the 23rd of this month. Joe McAlister (4SDU) comes to light with a complete list of the doings but apparently he hasn't realised that these notes must be in the hands of the Editor no later than the eighth of the month. I was working myself, but 4TL gave me a ring and said that Joe had been working on the shelter and was busily erecting the shelter as 4GZ drove up with a pantechnicon loaded with gear, and it looked as if it the day would be a huge success. A member who will be nameless, told me that Joe had done a great job as a social gathering. It was a knockout. Well, there you are, that's all I know for the present, with a bit of luck I will know more in the next issue. ANYONE, here's hoping.

I missed the notes from VK5 this month; could it be that my threat that I will police in regard to the "advisory council" mentioned by the VK5 scribe has caused him to go into "smoke." Come home, OM, all is forgiven, signed "Pansy."

Just as I was poking out my delicate and refined pen to do the due editing concerning these notes, along came a letter from my spy from the River Districts to tell me that 4BC had been selected by the gang up there to send down the V.E.L. notes to my partner in crime. The only reason he has been told of this move is Hughe himself, so possibly Clairy will be waiting some time for the notes. Hughe has a new modulator, zero bias 865, and it all can be believed it is doing a marvellous job. 4M0 has also built a multi-wavelength 40 Mc. band power supply, or it has materialised. 4SKW has moved to a new QTH with so many rooms that he could work on six bands and put a transmitter in each room. 350 has been trying to tame a wild 80 and should be heard on the lower frequencies within the next five years or so. Hurry up OM, there might be no ten or twenty by then.

4AJZ has been domiciled in VK5 on business for a month or so and as he has been working in the same building as the best, etc., etc., he has been up to see the gang a few times. Seen a few of the gang, but the old boyishness and ignorance as to who was the scribe for VK5, a defect that he has promised to rectify at once. That will make two readers, my wife being the other one. 4WE has been heard on the air for the first time and is very keen. Bill, you have a call sign that is internationally famous, and with all respect to you, if you turn out half as good as the chap that had the call before you, you will have nothing

to fear. He was a true Ham if ever there was one. Men talking to a certain Ham the other day and he said that no matter how careful the members were in voting for Council members there would always be a couple of "dillipots" who would get into the Council. This I understand is true. The Council is supposed to be representative of the members, and therefore as there are clever members and "dillipot" members, it is only right that all classes should be represented. He looked very hard at me as he said the word "dillipot" but then I could have imagined it.

#### DARWIN AREA

Ted Fuller has now been allotted his call sign of VK5TE. S.T. out at the R.A.A.F. is now on 20, 35, 50 M.c.s. of R.A.A.F. has not shown up on the bands yet. SRA got on twenty before Christmas with a modest 50 watt c.w. and after a number of successful nights, switched to 5K0 over a period of about a week. He has now found his way up the ghost. Resumed operations next night with 18 watts, only to lose the feeders again in a big blow. On top of that the modulator developed an obscure fault, relay p.a. transformer burnt out, and receiver developed a number of faults.

SAB has at last been persuaded to go on another band besides 10 metre phone for a change, and has opened up on 20 metre c.w. with a co-ax feed dipole. 5K1 is building some sets and tools now. He might make the grade soon. 5K2 is still wrestling with his obscure little antenna out at the Qantas hostel, but still seems to work plenty of DX on 10 and 20. 5K3 has been temporarily transferred to Duran Waters and is now on 20, 35, 50 M.c.s. We're still waiting to say that 5K5 is completely recovered (well almost) and out of hospital. He has a new 100 watt transmitter he intends keeping for 80, 40 and 20, so we expect to have a lot of competition here. 5K6 is still working on his 100 watt power champion ship winner of 1950, is taking out a ticket I believe. Morris Oliver, well known local aviator and aircraft engineer up here, is also swotting for his ticket.

5K7 Darl. is still in the form of a social gathering of Ham's members, their wives and families out at the Ludmilla Hostel at Nightcliff, and a good time was had by all. The business of the meeting was conducted in record time. The class of 1950 got away with a good start, with eight new attendees, and I believe the students at the last A.O.C.P. think they may have stood a chance of passing.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The first meeting for 1951 took place in the Institute Rooms on 18th January before a fairly representative attendance. The evening was very sultry after an oppressive day and that probably accounted for the extent of the attendance. Apologies were received from 5K0 who was abed with "flu". 5K0 acted as Secretary in Wally's absence. The meeting was fully taken up with discussion on items of a policy nature, the class of 1950 was given away, and a good start with eight new attendees, and I believe the students at the last A.O.C.P. think they may have stood a chance of passing.

#### PERSONALITIES

5HC and 5WV will be travelling overland to Melbourne and Sydney during March. They intend leaving Port on 11th, arriving 13th and then taking their portable gear along that performed so well during the N.F.D. They will operate on 40, 20, 16 and 8 metres, from the one two-stage transmitter. They will be looking for contacts with VK5 stations on the 16 and 8 metres. Good trip and happy holiday, Dave and Lee.

5NL has been holidaying on Garden Island. Van doesn't believe in taking portable gear on holidays. Likes to get away from it all, which he does. Even his portable b.c. is left at home. Hope the Liked your bus Val. 5AZ has at last finished his super transmitter,

and was heard trying out 20 the other evening, with a very solid signal. Believe the antenna is only 10 feet high and very temporary, but once Harold rectifies that there will be no holding him. 5WU in Wubin hasn't given the game away apparently, judging from the DX working him on 20, 16, 10 up your way R.E.

5VM is now operating in a QTH and has a beam. 5K1 Eric can be heard most evenings on that band with a nice signal. I understand 5P1 will be holidaying down at Esperance shortly and hopes to operate from the d.c. mains down there. How do all you chaps get your vacation down there? I'm not sure. Don't know if I can. 5BS in Manmanning (one of our comparatively new members) has been putting out a very nice signal on 40 and is contemplating operating on the 6 metre band; good idea! 5ASL is in the process of getting a job down the coast. Are they going to give you any a/c. when South Fremantle opens O.M. 5GA is wandering the wasteland and at the moment is enjoying the scenery at Forrest, after a sojourn of two months at Kalgoorlie. 5BU has seen his bus. They are well, and are having fun. Bill soon. Hope the broken fingers have mended OK.

5RS has been using his TA10D on 40, both a.c. and phone. Ron only had 50 watts available for 5W.A. on 40 and 20 c.w. For the present, cathode modulation is being used on the Bendix with quite good results. 5LM seems to be doing a lot of re-building. A new transmitter, modulator and receiver are on the programme, so I understand. 5K2 is still working on his 100 watt 5XG has been very quiet lately. How's that receiver progressing George? No news from Geraldton lately. How about it 5WZ, what's cooking up there? Trust that quite a number of V.H.F. and New Zealanders will be writing to our Sub-Editor with items of interest throughout 1951. If you didn't, how about making one now?

#### TASMANIA

The Annual Portable Field Day held during the last week-end in January was a great success as far as this State was concerned. Several parties participated and the resultant scores were gratifying, considering conditions which were prevalent at first. Those active were 7W1, 7W2, 7W3, 7W4, 7W5, 7W6, 7W7, 7W8 and 7JB, 7JB1, 7JB2, 7JB3 and 7JB4. Also in attendance was 7EA who performed the role of cook for the occasion. Two aerials were in use, a long wire and a full wave for twenty with separate receiving and transmitting. Transmitters were available, two only being used while the other remained a spare in case of break down. Bands used were 80, 40 and 20; several receivers were available, amongst those were 7P1, 7P2, 7P3, 7P4, 7P5, 7P6, 7P7, 7P8, 7P9 and 7P10. Industries worked were England, France, Austria, New Zealand, India, etc. which said a lot for the twelve miles from Hobart as a sea-side spot on the Fenna; the weather was everything one desired.

7RX was located at Rokeby which is on the eastern shore of the Derwent and the party consisted of 7XK, 7XJ, 7LZ, 7BF and 7BD. Transmitter experiments in drive and power transmitter which was three stage "Class C" v.f.o. driving into a converted 3BZ transmitter; receiver was a Eddystone "840" powered by a spare 3BZ vibrator supply. Phone only was used and antennae were two vee beams on forty. Trouble in the form of break from the vibrator supplies was a continual source of worry.

7OM and 7KA operated another station under the call sign 7KZ located at Hobart, but unfortunately operations were confined to Sunday only, even so, quite a good score resulted.

Chief item of business for the February meeting was preparations for the Annual Dinner, together with nominations for the seven Hobart councillors. Lecture for the evening was given by "TAJ" on "Amateur Radio and the Art of their construction by Amateurs". A vote of thanks was given by 7JB and the evening concluded at 10.30. Members are reminded that a competition will be run in conjunction with the Annual Dinner for the best example of auxiliary equipment constructed by members. From reports received, the Annual Dinner will be a greater success than ever, so all members are asked to remember the date which is March 3.

#### NORTHERN ZONE

The New Year was off to a grand start with our January meeting and all allowing for the fortunate souls still holidaying, a really good attendance was had at the King's Hall on Friday 13th. At the conclusion of the business an interesting talk was given by 5XW on testing equipment used in his station. The practical demonstration proved, as of course it always does, the most effective way of dispensing

knowledge and we are grateful to Chris for the opportunity of viewing equipment that he normally keeps behind barred doors. Who could resist the vote of thanks proposed by 5Q9. Shortly after, negotiations were under way to have some of Len's components tested!

Activity still on the low end of the pendulum, one or two stations in the area have given occasional interest to 5LZ, but with the wane of sporadic E, Col has to decide what way to go, up or down, in frequency and with conditions on 20 such that even W is almost considered DX, we seem to me that the higher frequencies will be the aim, in fact, between 144 Mc. will be the next band to be attacked least on that band a beam becomes manageable. 5DZ still house building, so not very active. 5LZ down from 5XW on an all band switcher, as yet, as it hasn't settled the solder on my receiver, but it will be here.

Reading the DX notes in "A.R." I cannot help but wonder what the heck it is that keeps DX signals out of VK1. After doing some steady listening over the last month and carefully comparing the DX heard with the DX sent to me, to the conclusion that we have only heard one thing in common consistently for the month and that is QRM. The first (phone) week-end of the B.E.U. Contest seemed to produce little interest, but the following c.w. week-end finds the bands in better shape.

March meeting once more sees the Annual Election of Officers and, as I warned you last year, please leave six-shooters and bows and arrows at home. Knuckle-dusters should be quite sufficient—the date is the 3rd.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

The opinions expressed in these letters are the individual opinions of the writer, and do not necessarily coincide with those of the publishers.

#### CORRECTION

(The following letter was received by the Queensland Division of the W.L.A. who have requested same to be published—Ed.)

No. 1 (B) Squadron R.A.A.F.,  
Seng, W.L.A. Qld. Div., Sir.

It would be appreciated if you would make a mention in your notes for the next issue of "A.R." that I am a member of the W.L.A. quite contrary to what appears on page 9 of the January issue of "A.R." as I have been a member of the W.L.A. for some considerable number of years in the VK3 Division.

If it may be of any interest to the magazine "A.R." I will be operating from my van with the call sign VS1DO, and will be looking for VK contacts.

Trusting this small matter can be rectified. —L. BAKER.

P.S.—Current receipt number 8333 dated 2/4/51 is still held.

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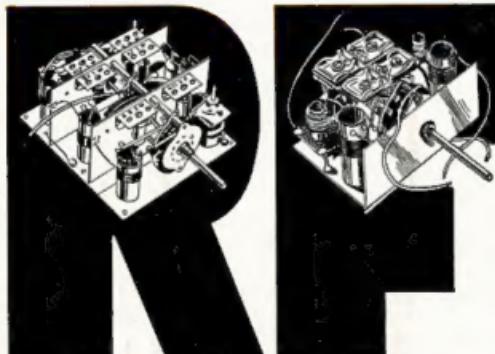
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